

THE TIMES
Tomorrow
Christmas cheer
The Times Cook
brings back the fun
of ancient festivities
Change of time
Who will be the
new man to control
the BBC's music?
The moral view
What price the
freedom of the
sexual revolution?
Sticky wicket
Preview of England's
chances in the one-day
international against
India at Poona.

Portfolio
The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won outright yesterday by Mrs Julia Pearson of Packeridge, Herts. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page.

BA profits increase to £189m
British Airways' chairman Lord King yesterday announced half-year profits up by 26 per cent. The results will be the last released before the airline's privatization in February.
Pretax profits were £189 million, compared with £150 million last year. Group turnover was up from £1,397 million to £1,573 million and the airline did well in all areas of passengers and freight.
Lord King said the sale of British Telecom had been "handled brilliantly" and he would like to think BA would do as well. But there would be no perks to encourage people to fly BA, he indicated.
Kenneth Fleet, page 17

Cairo plea for Mid-East talks
Egypt has added its voice to the clamour in the Arab world for the immediate staging of a Middle East crisis conference involving the full participation of the Soviet Union. Page 6

Pilot killed
Captain Tony Wigley, aged 44, commander of the Royal Naval Air station at Portland, Dorset, was killed yesterday when his helicopter crashed into the sea wall.
Royal visit
The Prince and Princess of Wales will make a postponed visit to Italy from April 19 to May 5 and will have an audience with the Pope.
Tanker ablaze
An Iraqi warplane fired an Exocet missile into the Cypriot-registered supertanker Minotaur in the Gulf, setting it on fire. Page 6
Test defeat
England were beaten by eight wickets in the first Test against India at Bombay. Australia appointed Allan Border as captain against West Indies in succession to Kim Hughes. Report, page 26

Leader page 15
Letters on VAT, from Dr G. A. Weir, and others: Soviet prisoners, from Lord Bethell.
Leading articles: Government management; Hong Kong Features, pages 13, 14
Cyprus: Did Karamanlis back the Turkish takeover?; Poland's poetic memory; Roger Scruton and the real school bullies; Philip Whitehead: Miners are citizens, not enemies; Terrorism Europe; Fashion looks at fine jewels.
Obituary, page 16
Mr Edward James, Princess Constance Magogo kaDinuzulu

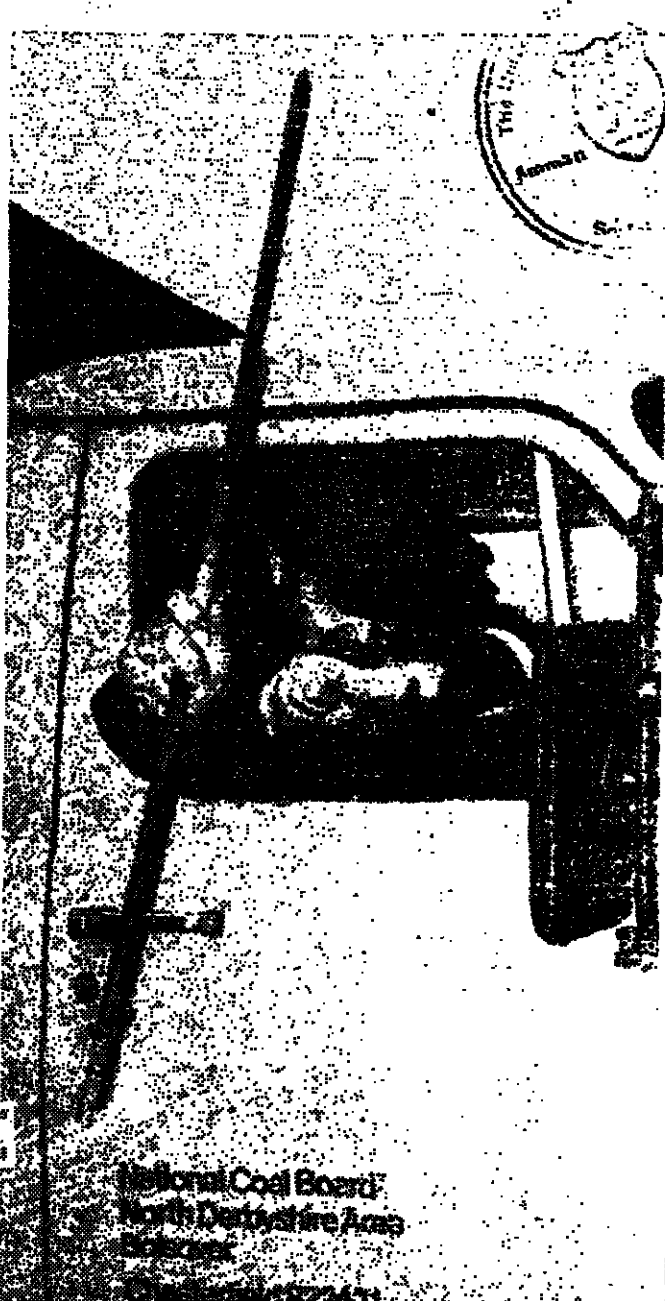
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NUM stays defiant but is resigned to loss of £200,000

Miners' delegates rejected a conciliatory recommendation by the NUM executive to release £4.3 million of its funds and voted to continue defying the courts.
A Luxembourg court may be asked today to establish the receiver's right to lay claim to the £4.3 million of NUM assets in a Luxembourg bank.
An attempted murder charge could face vandals who hurled a metal spike from a bridge, piercing the roof of a coal board van carrying explosives.
The miners' decision not to purge their contempt is likely to increase pressure from unions worried about repayment of loans made to the NUM. Page 2

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Miners' leaders voted last night to continue their defiance of the law, but resigned themselves to the seizure of £200,000 from their funds to pay fines levied for contempt of the High Court.
Delegates to a special conference of the National Union of Mineworkers in London voted by 139 to 80 to boycott efforts by the receiver appointed by the court to bring back £4.3 million of the union's assets from a bank in Luxembourg.
In doing so, they overturned a recommendation by 11 votes to 6 from the NUM national executive that the union's cash should be brought back to Britain to bring the miners back into compliance with the law and recent judges' rulings.
At the end of a heated, 90-minute conference, delegates threw out the unexpectedly moderate policy, proposed by their executive and endorsed a hard-line strategy put forward by Mr Jack Collins, Communist leader of the Kent pitmen.
The key section of the critical policy decision said that the conference was not prepared to permit the union's officers to give any assistance to the sequestrators or the receiver.
The Kent proposition was put as an amendment to the executive's measures and it scotched a more conciliatory line that appeared to be emerging from the NUM and its president, Mr Arthur Scargill.
The conference at Congress House, the TUC headquarters in Bloomsbury, had been called into an emergency session to decide what to do in the wake of the High Court appointment of a receiver to run the union's financial affairs.
After a weekend of indecision, the miners' executive voted earlier yesterday to agree to the repatriation of most of its available funds from Luxembourg to Britain. The £200,000 could then be paid in the proper way and most of the union's cash might be restored to the leaders of the strike.
Mr Scargill was understood by delegates at yesterday's conference to support that view, which split the executive right across the traditional political boundaries. The Yorkshire area representatives abstained on a technicality.
When it came to the delegates' vote, the following composite strategy was agreed overwhelmingly on a show of hands:
1 The NUM deplors the decision to remove the union's three trustees and to appoint a Tory Party official as receiver with total control over our funds.
2 The conference is not prepared to sanction the payment of the £200,000 fine levied against the union, although it recognises that this latest unprecedented move by the court means the payment will be seized without our consent.
3 Conference is not prepared to "purge" this union's "contempt" and reiterates that at all times the union had acted in accordance with its rules and constitution.
4 Conference is not prepared to permit either the elected trustees or any other officers of the union to give any assistance whatsoever to the sequestrators or the receiver appointed by the High Court to manage the funds and assets of this union.
5 The NUM has already asked the TUC to call an emergency meeting of the general council and asks that the General Council mobilizes industrial action to stop this most vicious threat to our history to the freedom and independence of British trade unionism.
Delegates reaffirmed their insistence that there can be no settlement of the dispute unless the coal board withdraws its pit closure programme.
NUM leaders met Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, last night to explain their strategy decisions. The TUC's liaison group on the coal strike is expected to be called into session today.
Other mining news, page 2
Philip Whitehead, page 14



The driver of the van holding the sharpened rod

Metal spike hurled at coal board van

By Craig Seton

An attempted murder charge could face the men who hurled a metal rod from a bridge onto a coal board van carrying explosives yesterday, narrowly missing the driver and his mate.
Police chiefs and coal board officials expressed horror at the alleged attack in north Derbyshire. A three-foot-long electricity carrying rod which had been deliberately sharpened penetrated several inches through the roof of the van's cabin above the heads of the two men who are both members of the NUM having returned to work within the past month.
The spike failed to get further because it was stopped by a bolt screwed on the end.
The van was carrying 100lb of explosives to Renishaw Park Colliery when the attack happened before. We carried on made from a 20ft high railway bridge above the Renishaw to Staveley road, near Chesterfield. The coal board said there was little risk of explosion.
Derbyshire police found a collection of missiles, including concrete posts, lumps of metal, stones, and metal railpins on the bridge.
Detective Chief Insp Sandy McGillivray, who is leading the hunt for those responsible, said: "This is a very serious matter and the charge could well be attempted murder."
The driver of the van, who does not want to be identified, said: "We were a bit shocked and shaken when we remembered what had happened in Wales last week. We heard a bang and thought someone had thrown a brick at us as we had happened before. We carried on and when we heard another bang we saw this spike sticking out of the roof."

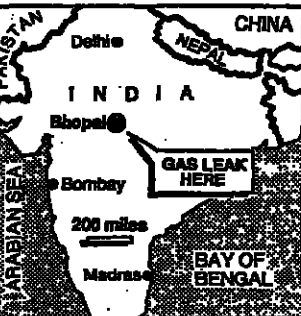
Luxembourg rebuffs receiver

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The receiver and one of the sequestrators appointed to take over the assets of the National Union of Mineworkers today try to persuade Nobis Finanz International, the Luxembourg bank, that they have the authority to lay claim to the money deposited there.
Yesterday after being refused admittance by the bank, the two men consulted lawyers who drew up legal opinions which they said they believed "will satisfy Nobis that the receiver is now the only man who can produce an effective discharge on receipts".
If the bank is still not satisfied, the receiver will have to go to a Luxembourg court to establish the validity of his claim and seek a court order requiring the bank to hand over the £4.3 million worth of assets that last week the court ordered to be unfrozen.
The bank may well take the view that it is not prepared to hand over funds to a third party without the backing of a court order from Luxembourg.
The English court order under which the receiver, Mr Herbert Brewer, was appointed in place of the union's trustees is not legally binding in Luxembourg. In the same way

Indian chemical plant disaster 375 killed by escaping gas

By Our Foreign Staff
At least 375 people died yesterday when toxic gas leaked from a Union Carbide pesticide plant near Bhopal, capital of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. As many as 20,000 more needed hospital treatment for swollen eyes, frothing at the mouth and breathing difficulties. About 2,000 of them were said to be in a serious condition.
The Union Carbide managing director in India, Mr Y. P. Gokhale, said in Bombay that methyl isocyanate gas escaped when a valve in the plant's underground storage tank broke under a build-up of pressure. He said some of the plant's workers were affected by the leakage. Bhopal is about three miles from the factory.
The plant has been closed and the assistant works manager, production manager and plant supervisor arrested. Police cordoned off Bhopal, stopping trains, planes and vehicles from entering the city of 500,000 people.
The Government in Delhi has sent medical and scientific experts to the scene of the disaster, and has ordered a judicial inquiry.
A local correspondent contacted by telephone said he found the Bhopal mortuary littered with bodies of men, women and children. Thousands of people were being ferried to hospitals in lorries, buses and cars, and tents had been erected in hospital grounds. There were hundreds of dead dogs, cats, cows and birds lying in the streets. Mrs Madhu Mishra, Professor of Home Science at Bhopal University, said she woke up at about 1am coughing violently. "My eyes started watering and I could hardly breathe, I was choking," she said.
Mrs Mishra said she and a neighbour drove towards a hill in the city. "It was gruesome, a nightmare. There were about eight or nine thousand people on the road in the dead of night all heading for the hill." People blinded by the fumes stumbled into each other in pitch darkness.
Continued on back page, col 1



Ministers prepare for retreat on student cash

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Government sources last night gave the first official confirmation that ministers were on the brink of conceding to more than 160 Conservative rebels opposed to the plan to cut student support by £39 million.
Having said on Sunday that the Prime Minister and Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, were standing absolutely firm, it was reported yesterday that ministers were considering a number of options - one of which was to stand firm.
It is understood that Sir Keith is being advised to take one of two retreats: either to stagger the cuts over a longer period, or to freeze the plan while the issue of long-term student support is reviewed.
Either course would cost money, and it was suggested by one Downing Street source that the Treasury might be willing to offer alternative finance for Sir Keith's cherished science budget.
Meanwhile, Sir Keith prepared himself for today's Commons ordeal - with education questions followed by his opening speech on the second day of the Local Government Bill and a full meeting with backbench critics - by meeting the officers of the Tory backbench education committee.
Mr Peter Bruinvels, a secretary of the committee and MP for Leicester East, said afterwards: "Lifelines were thrown. There is no sign yet that he has grasped them. He did not commit himself either way."
For the Opposition, Mr Giles Radice, the Labour frontbench spokesman, said in a letter to Sir Keith last night that the plan should be dropped pending a review of 16-plus grant arrangements. Joseph meeting, page 2

Death threat to Thatcher as Dublin summit opens

From Richard Ford, Dublin
The outlawed Irish National Liberation Army delivered a death threat to the Prime Minister as she arrived in Dublin yesterday to be greeted by unprecedented security and a series of hoax bomb alerts.
As the recriminations over the Anglo-Irish summit appeared forgotten, with Mrs Thatcher standing next to Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Taoiseach, chatting like old friends outside the official residence of the Irish President, the terrorists claimed they would send her to meet Airey Neave.
Mr Neave, a close friend of the Prime Minister, was murdered by the IRA when a booby-trap bomb exploded under his car at the Palace of Westminster at the start of the 1979 General Election campaign.
The two Prime Ministers had a brief chat, described as affable, before the summit began and the Government is determined that their talks began at the Chequers Summit will go ahead with the intention of another Prime Ministerial meeting early next year.
The smiles between the two leaders indicate that any ill-feeling over the row that developed after the summit two weeks ago had been forgotten and it was hoped the two leaders would hold a short meeting today.
A major security alert began only hours before Mrs Thatcher and Dr FitzGerald, all smiles outside Dublin Castle yesterday.
The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, arrived on board an RAF VC 10 at Dublin Airport, when a suspect package was found near Dublin Castle where the EEC summit is being held.
During a final check by police of the drains and sewers around and under the castle, a black plastic bag containing putty and old batteries was discovered. An area around the heavily-guarded and sealed off castle was evacuated for 90 minutes as army bomb disposal experts carried out checks, proving that it was a hoax.
The INLA statement claimed it had planted several hoax bombs throughout the city in protest at the treaty posed to Ireland's neutrality by EEC membership. It particularly resented the presence of Mrs Thatcher who had shown "nothing but contempt for the Irish people".
It said INLA had made no attempt to execute her because of its policy of preventing civilian casualties, but warned "this does not detract from our intention of sending Thatcher to meet Airey Neave for her crimes against the Irish people".
A picket organized by Provisional Sinn Féin attracted only 30 people, who stood several hundred yards from the Castle's main entrance with banners demanding an end to extradition and telling Mrs Thatcher to get out.
Last-minute security checks began early yesterday with streets surrounding the castle sealed off and hundreds of police taking up positions outside, on the roof and along the route to the city airport. The airport was surrounded by troops who stood along the main Dublin to Belfast road with their rifles at the ready, armoured vans were parked in entrances and troops also patrolled fields on their flight path into the airport.
● JOBS SCHEME: An EEC plan to fight unemployment was endorsed by the summit (Ian Murray writes).
Mrs Thatcher described it as the best report on the subject she had yet seen from the European Commission.
The plan urges monetary policies which steer clear of inflation, curbs public expenditure and reductions in budget deficits. It argues for tax cuts to create investment capital, calls for greater flexibility in wage rates and an end to closed shop controls on the labour market.
Wrangle starts, Page 6

Telecom shares start trading at 45p premium

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

Shares in British Telecom made a sensational debut on the stock market yesterday, opening at a huge premium of 45p over the issue price, and immediately embroiling the Government in another political row over the pricing of the issue, the largest so far in the privatization programme.
Mr Alan Williams, a Labour spokesman on trade and industry, accused the Government of "criminal incompetence" in its handling of the issue, which he described as "the biggest giveaway in British commercial history".
Although ministers immediately mounted a spirited defence of their handling of the record-breaking £3.9 billion share sale, they are clearly bracing themselves for another protracted row over accusations that they have sold state-owned assets cheaply.
The first official dealings in Telecom shares began simultaneously in London and New York at 3pm London time. The jobbers' and traders' pitches were immediately swamped by brokers and other traders.
The size of the opening premium was significantly higher than nearly every estimate, even among professional City analysts, and means investors are sitting on a profit equivalent, on paper at least, to nearly 90 per cent of their original investment.
The shares started changing hands at 95p in their partly-paid form - 45p more than investors have so far had to pay for them. After fluctuating in the three hours of official trading in London, they closed at 93p a share. Trading was still going on after hours last night.
The closing price of 93p is equivalent to a fully paid-up price of 173p, which compares with last week's 130p offer price. The 2.25 million people who have been allocated shares have so far had to make only an initial downpayment of 50p a share.
Most small investors are not expected to try to sell their shares until they have received formal notification of how many they have received, which will not be until Tuesday next week at the earliest.
Opposition MPs claimed in the Commons that the opening premium showed the Government had underpriced the shares, and had cost the taxpayer more than £1.25 billion by selling Telecom more cheaply than it could have done.
"Five times oversubscribed and a 45p premium is not misvaluation, it is criminal incompetence", Mr Williams said.
The Government was defended by both Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the Minister for Information Technology, and Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, who is still in hospital recovering from the injuries he sustained in the Brighton bomb blast.
In a statement, Mr Tebbit said the flotation was a major step towards the goal of wider share ownership. Recalling that only a few months ago few people thought it would have been possible to achieve any share issue on the scale of the Telecom one, the outcome reaffirmed the "supremacy of skill" in the City.
The Government's merchant bank adviser, KJ Sawers, Etonson, said the price was in many ways an artificial one, reflecting the extreme shortage of sellers.
Stock Exchange scenes, page 3
Market report, page 19

Two in Brinks-Mat raid jailed for 25 years

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

Two men convicted of taking part in Britain's largest robbery were each jailed yesterday for 25 years at the Central Criminal Court, leaving behind them no clue to the whereabouts of more than £26 million in gold and other precious items.
Sentencing Michael John McAvoy, aged 35, and Brian Robinson, aged 41, for their part in the raid on a Brinks-Mat warehouse just over a year ago, the Common Sergeant of London Judge David Tudor Price, told them there could be "no distinction between you".
The two men were told: "You and I know the sentence for this case must be very heavy. The robbery had been well planned, guards had been threatened with a petrol solution and the haul was enormous." The sentence must be sufficient to indicate to all that robbery of this kind is not worth it," the judge said.
McAvoy, a builder of Beckwith Road, East Dulwich, south-east London, said "Thank you" as he was taken from the court, but Robinson, unemployed of Rollins Street, Peckham, south-east London, was silent.
Earlier, counsel for the men offered no mitigation pleas.
After they had left, the judge told the court that papers on the case would be sent to Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, to see if there was evidence of an attempt to pervert the course of justice by three men who were alibi witnesses for McAvoy during his defence.
Background, page 2



If you were deaf and blind...
... you could be totally dependent on someone else for the rest of your life - and probably you would never even speak.
RNID's Deaf/Blind Centre in Bath cares for Stephen and other youngsters like him. It gives them a home, for the present at least, but such care costs a fortune - with more staff than residents to meet their needs.
We urgently want to do more for more deaf/blind young people. Please help us to do so by giving what you can.
The RNID's other services include medical research and extensive scientific, technical, educational, welfare and information services.
RNID. The Royal National Institute for the Deaf.
Please send what you can afford to RNID, Room T, 105 Gower Street, London WC1E 6AH. For details telephone 01-387 8033.

High cost forces Britain to oppose European steps against acid rain

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The Government will not support a European Commission initiative to reduce sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from power stations in Britain. A meeting of European environment ministers in Brussels on Thursday, will be told by Mr William Waldegrave that the measures would cost too much.

An explanation of the Government's decision is contained in a report to Parliament published yesterday. It is a detailed reply to criticisms of the select committee on the environment in a report on acid rain, which recommended the reduction of emissions from the Central Electricity Generating Board's coal-fired power stations.

Mr Waldegrave, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, said estimates by the Central Electricity Generating Board showed that the installation of

flue gas desulfurization (FGD) plant would cost £1,500 million; £150 million at each of 10 power stations.

The Government does not accept that discharges from sources in Britain are a main contributor to acid rain, which has killed much of the life in thousands of lakes in Scandinavia and caused destruction affecting half of the forests in West Germany.

Reductions proposed by the European Commission would reduce sulphur dioxide by 60 per cent and nitrogen oxides by 40 per cent. In addition to discharges from power stations, emissions of nitrogen oxides from car exhausts should be cut by 30 per cent on new cars from October 1, 1986.

The Government is arguing that reductions from cars should be phased over a longer period, and by different measures. Instead of fitting

catalytic burners to clean-up exhaust gases, the procedure would be a gradual improvement with the adoption of "lean-burn" engines.

Advisers to the Department of the Environment suggest that adoption of the measures in Britain, as West Germany and Scandinavian countries, in particular, would like, would make little difference to the troubles other countries face.

Indeed, yesterday's report argues that if other countries had followed the measures taken in Britain between 1970 and 1980 to reduce emissions, their acid rain problems might not be so severe.

The case Mr Waldegrave's team will put to other ministers is that the environmental protection issues differ between countries.

Acid Rain: Cmd 9397 (Stationery Office £3.15).

Fears over tax on pension lump sums

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Fears that the Chancellor of the Exchequer intends to tax lump sums available on retirement have caused a flurry of lobbying by the police and civil servants. There have also been anxious telephone calls to the Treasury by people who see their future threatened.

Senior police officers, who can commute part of their pensions and have some choice about when to retire, are already leaving the service.

Chief Superintendent West, assistant secretary of the Police Superintendents' Association, said yesterday: "We are increasingly getting information about members who are leaving the service early because they are not prepared to run the risk of having their commutation taxed".

One of those retiring early is the head of Oxford police, Chief Superintendent Ray Tilly, aged 50, who took over in the city only six weeks ago.

"I am not willing to take the risk", he said. Mr Tilly added

that he was extremely disappointed at having to go. He had hoped to stay another 10 years.

Police Review estimates in its current issue that a chief superintendent due to retire could lose about £30,000 in commutation if he were taxed on that payment and on his year's salary, lose more than £20,000 in tax. By retiring before the Budget he would be sure of receiving his full commutation.

Mr Pat Johnson, deputy secretary of the Police Federation, which represents officers up to and including chief inspector, said: "We have noticed that there are people retiring who would not have expected to at this stage."

The Council of Civil Servants' Unions said it had written to the Chancellor expressing concern about rumours that he is thinking of taxing pensions benefits.

The Civil Service has a compulsory commutation, a spokesman said.

Ship order will guarantee Belfast jobs

The Belfast shipbuilders Harland and Wolff are expected to announce today a £35-million order for a 190,000-tonne ore carrier for the British Steel Corporation.

The revived shipyard now has its entire production capacity booked for the next two years, guaranteeing jobs for its workforce of more than 5,000 until the end of 1986.

The ship expected to be announced today will be a sister vessel to the British Steel, which was delivered to BSC at the end of October.

M25 orbital saving time and money

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

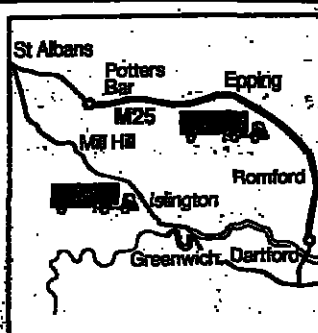
London's M25 orbital motorway has reduced the time taken to get across London.

In a test organized by the Freight Transport Association, a lorry made two journeys from Tooting to Heathrow via the M25, and the other via the A206 road in Kent.

On one journey it used the M25 to get around London and on the other it went through London via Blackwall Highway and the Blackwall Tunnel.

Although using the M25 route made the 111km journey 18km longer it took 12 minutes less.

The 28-ton Volvo lorry also used a lot less fuel because it made 157 fewer gear changes.



However, Mr Garry Turvey, director general of the Freight Transport Association, said that the toll at the Dartford Tunnel at the end of the M25 was causing long delays. That was a serious drawback to using the M25 orbital.

How the routes compare

Time	1hr 21 mins	1hr 33 mins
Distance	111 km	129 km
Gear changes	47	204
Fuel	1	66
Tolls	1 at £1.80	none



Mr Dai Williams, the miner who escaped injury in Friday's tragedy, arriving at Merthyr Vale Colliery, near Aberystwyth, South Wales, yesterday in a car driven by Mr Jeff Tree, of City Centre Cars, the firm whose driver was killed.

Dispute in the coalfields

NUM worried union loans could dry up

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The alarm shown by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers at the appointment of a receiver to control their funds can be attributed to the concern that a steady supply of interest-free loans from other unions may soon start to dry up.

NUM leaders are understood to have been told by unions, previously pledged to provide money to keep the union in business, that support could be withdrawn if the receiver's attempts to take authority over funds lodged abroad are successful.

Early moves by Mr Herbert Brewer, the Derbyshire solicitor appointed as receiver by the High Court, to take control of £8.9 million NUM funds, including £4.36 million resting with a Luxembourg finance house, received a setback when he was told there was not an official available to meet him.

However, Mr Brewer, and MP Brian Larkin, one of the four partners of Price Waterhouse appointed as sequestrators of union funds, later announced that they had taken further legal advice which they believed would persuade Nobs-Finanz International that the receiver was the only person

Miners mourn but continue picketing

From Tim Jones, Aberystwyth

Nothing changed on the picket line at Merthyr Vale colliery yesterday as pickets surged against the police and hurled obscenities as Mr David Williams and another working miner were driven past them before dawn in torrential rain.

On Friday, Mr David Wilkie, aged 35, a taxi driver was killed when a concrete block smashed through his car window as he was taking Mr Williams to work. Two men have been charged with his murder.

Before Mr Williams arrived at the pit yesterday, 50 pickets stood in silence for one minute in memory of everyone who has been killed during the dispute.

But when the convoy carrying Mr Williams arrived the usual abuses started as the police struggled to hold the pickets back.

Mr Bill King, the union's lodge secretary, said: "We are all very sorry about the death of David Wilkie but the strike remains firm and we will not stop our picketing".

Mr King, rejected a plea from Mr David East, the Chief Constable of South Wales, to limit the number of pickets at the pit to six with just two policemen because he could not

Hailsham against judges on television

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, rejects the idea that judges should be allowed to appear on television in an interview in the latest issue of *Justice of the Peace*.

He says the matter has been considered several times and tentative experiments tried on at least two occasions on selected programmes had proved a failure.

He said: "There is an inbuilt tendency on television to attack and to edit out those things that are most important in an interview and I have come to the conclusion that the judges are right in wanting to stay off".

He adds that most judges were against any change in the Kilmour rules that prevent television appearances.

In the same interview Lord Hailsham suggests that press criticism of the judiciary could be reduced if judges avoided foolish off-the-cuff remarks. "It is very difficult without being offensive to tell them that because there are judges who are more accident-prone, if you like, than others."

Lord Hailsham adds that although he does not criticize judges if he can help it, their appointments are very carefully made and that they undergo training.

"And when things do go seriously wrong, there are means, although they are not usually disclosed or publicized, by which the judge can be made to understand that he has perhaps erred."

Lord Hailsham also defends judges from the criticism that they are too remote. Barristers have by the nature of their work been in contact with many ordinary people, at stressful and painful times of their lives.

He concludes that judges are not removed from society and that many have spent their whole professional lives considering the same side of life.

Nine will fight by-election at Enfield

Nine candidates will contest the Enfield Southgate by-election, caused by the death of the Conservative MP, Sir Anthony Berry, in the Brighton bombing seven weeks ago.

A late attempt by Screaming Lord Sutch, the veteran by-election campaigner, to add both his name and his dog's to the list was unsuccessful.

The poll, on December 13, will be one of the last before candidates' deposits in parliamentary elections are raised from £150 to £1,000.

The candidates are: Helen Mary Anscomb (Death Off the Roads, Freight on Rail), Iain James Burgess (Abolish Greater London, Restore Middlesex Shire), Peter Winston Hamid (Lab), James William Kershaw (Nationalist Party), Andreas Polydorou (Turkish Troops Out of Cyprus), Michael Forlito (Cy, Raymond Edwards (English National Party), Timothy Slack (Lib-SDP Alliance), George Weiss (Captain Rainbow's Universal Party).

General Election: Sir Anthony Berry, 52, died in Brighton on October 27, 1984. He was 52.

Calvi link is denied

The coroner said yesterday at the end of the Westminster inquest on Mr Yugo Nutta, the Italian businessman that his death was not connected with the unsolved death of Roberto Calvi, chief of the crashed Ambrosiano Bank.

Dr Paul Knapman speaking at the end of the inquest at Westminster said: "I feel it is over-reaction to have witch hunts every time an Italian businessman dies in this country". He recorded a suicide verdict on Mr Nutta, who was found dead in a London hotel.

Joseph to consider grant review

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, yesterday met student leaders for the first time and gave no indication that there might be concessions on his proposals for student grants (Our Education Correspondent writes).

But in a 30-minute meeting with Mr Phil Woolas, president of the National Union of Students, he agreed to consider, as a long-term option, undertaking a review of the student grant system. A partial loans scheme might be investigated in such a review, he said.

Sir Keith, who has refused to meet the NUS during his three years in office, also agreed to look into the question of making parental contributions compulsory, but said he was not hopeful about that.

The Government should encourage students to obtain loans from banks and take cleaning and gardening jobs on campus, the Adam Smith Institute says in a memorandum to Sir Keith.

It should underwrite 50 per cent of student overdrafts up to £2,000, less what students receive from the state and their parents.

New Sources of Student Finance (Adam Smith Institute, PO Box 316, London SW1P 3DJ; £1).

GLC 'best instrument of wealth redistribution'

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

The Greater London Council was the best instrument available to the left for redistributing wealth, according to Mr Ken Livingstone, Labour leader of the council.

A speech he gave at a rally last month was yesterday quoted at length in *Marxism Today*, a monthly published by the Communist Party, as MPs began debating the Local Government Bill, which includes powers to enable ministers to abolish the GLC in 1986.

Mr Livingstone said that the large rate base available to the GLC gave it far greater resources than other Labour authorities with radical policies, such as Sheffield and Liverpool city councils.

The use of institutions outside the Labour movement had enabled the GLC to build up support quickly, he went on. "We've been buying space in the media that's run by our enemies."

Parliament, page 4

Dairy quota hope rises for farmers

The Government yesterday gave a broad hint to dairy farmers that they should consider expanding production between now and the end of March (our Agriculture Correspondent writes).

Speaking at the Royal Smithfield Show in London, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said the British dairy industry had adapted to the new quota system very well.

That was partly due to the summer drought and partly to self-imposed cuts.

But farmers should look closely at national production figures, he said because there was a strong possibility that by the end of 1984-85, they would have produced less than their quota, and that individual farmers who produced more than their allocations might well not have to pay any levy.

Grain crisis, page 5

Fatal flaw for £26m raiders

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

12 years, Robinson, who was in the Flying Squad intelligence files.

Within days of the robbery information pointed detectives in the direction of him and McAvoy.

Under questioning last December Black, no professional criminal like the others, stumbled with the simple question: "Where do I begin?" He turned informer, earning himself a six-year sentence, the knowledge he could be hunted for the rest of his life.

Before the trial he was kept at a London police station instead of prison reportedly enjoying weekly squash sessions with his guards. He may stay in police protection for some time.

During the trial the jury were given protection and the Central Criminal Court guarded by armed officers and dogs. Each night the defendants, kept in separate prisons on remand, were moved under heavy police escort.

For the men in the dock, having reached the apex of their criminal careers, were running the risk of a very swift madir facing extremely long sentences.

Robinson is known in the underworld as "The Colonel" because of his organizational ability. McAvoy is also widely known in the underworld. The two are suspected of working together in the past.

But were there others? Two men living in Spain linked to the robbery are unreachable

because there is no extradition. There has been speculation about criminal financiers and other organizers for a robbery which, even at £2 million, would have been profitable.

None of the haul has reappeared, despite a record £2 million reward. Black said that he was told he would have to wait at least five years for the unspecified share. No payments could be made until the gang were sure the police had lost interest.

He thought the booty might have been hidden in a safe buried beneath concrete somewhere in Britain.

But 8,600 gold bars, the size of a crate, need a large hole. Suspicion fell on an escape route in Spain. It was 10 days before the defendants were arrested and the gold could have been flown out, transported by small boat from a secret port or driven across Europe piecemeal.

The gold could also be filtered on to the market by middlemen. The gang must have made some arrangement before the robbery to dispose of the spoils and their receiver might have been prepared to deal with the unexpected largesse.

Much will depend on how the defendants respond to their sentences. If the gold reappears it would affect their early release. If it does not Black may not be the only one who

Other criminals might try to reach the proceeds.

Labour NEC writ threat

By Anthony Beving, Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Cook, the Labour Chief Whip, is threatening legal action against his party's national executive if it continues to ignore his pleas for an investigation of his constituency party at Bristol South (our Political Correspondent writes).

He said yesterday that his grievance dates back to last March when, he alleges, an improperly constituted annual general meeting elected officers who, he believes, have no constitutional authority.

Since then, the national executive of the Labour Party has refused twice to endorse action on the issue. In a

solicitor's letter considered by the party's organization committee yesterday it was stated that the patience of Mr Cook and two others complainants was exhausted.

The letter says: "Unless within seven days we receive your committee's written assurance that active steps have been or will be immediately taken by your committee to resolve this matter and unless those steps are of a speedy and satisfactory nature, it is our clients' intention forthwith to institute proceedings against you".

The executive is due to meet tomorrow week.

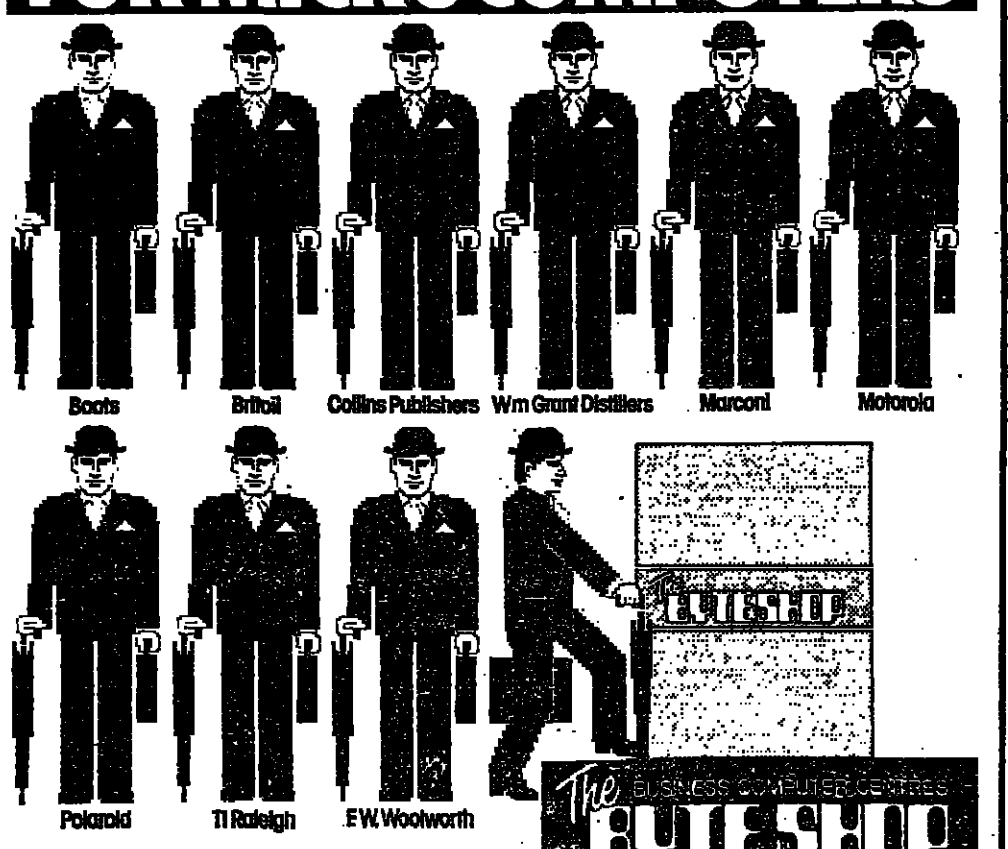
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Hailsham against judges on television

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Hailsham, of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, should be allowed to appear on television in an interview on the subject of the law, he has said.

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Pakistani posed as cricket fan to set up £5.5m heroin plot, court is told

A wealthy Pakistani businessman posed as an ardent cricket fan to set up a heroin-smuggling operation, Ipswich Crown Court was told yesterday.

The seizure at Felixstowe, Suffolk, of the heroin, which had a street value of £5.5 million, was the biggest in Britain, the court was told.

Five men from the Birmingham area are accused of illegally importing 39.95 kilos of heroin in a consignment of brass ornaments from Karachi.

Muhammad Yasin, aged 28, Zahid Iqbal, aged 30, Asar Shar, aged 30, Azal Choudhry, aged 35, and his brother, Muhammad Choudhry, aged 34, all described as British citizens, pleaded not guilty.

Shan and Iqbal also denied a further charge of attempting to possess a controlled drug with intent to supply.

Mr David Cocks, QC, for the prosecution, named the "Mr Big" behind the operation as

Zulfikar Choudhry. He said Choudhry came to Britain last year on the pretext of following the Pakistani test team.

"This was the innocent part of the trip," Mr Cocks said. "The sinister part was his involvement in the import of socially lethal drugs."

Customs investigators found the heroin hidden in tubes inserted in the hollowed-out planks of five wooden packing cases unloaded from a German-registered cargo ship.

The drugs were removed and replaced with harmless brown powder before customs men, disguised as delivery drivers, drove the crates to their destination at a garage in Dennis Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

Mr Cocks said the five men before the court were arrested at different times after inquiries and surveillance on the garage in an operation code-named "neptune".

Three days before the first arrests Zulfikar Choudhry had telephoned one of the accused from Pakistan to ask if the five cases had arrived and to say he was arranging for the shipment of a further 30 cases.

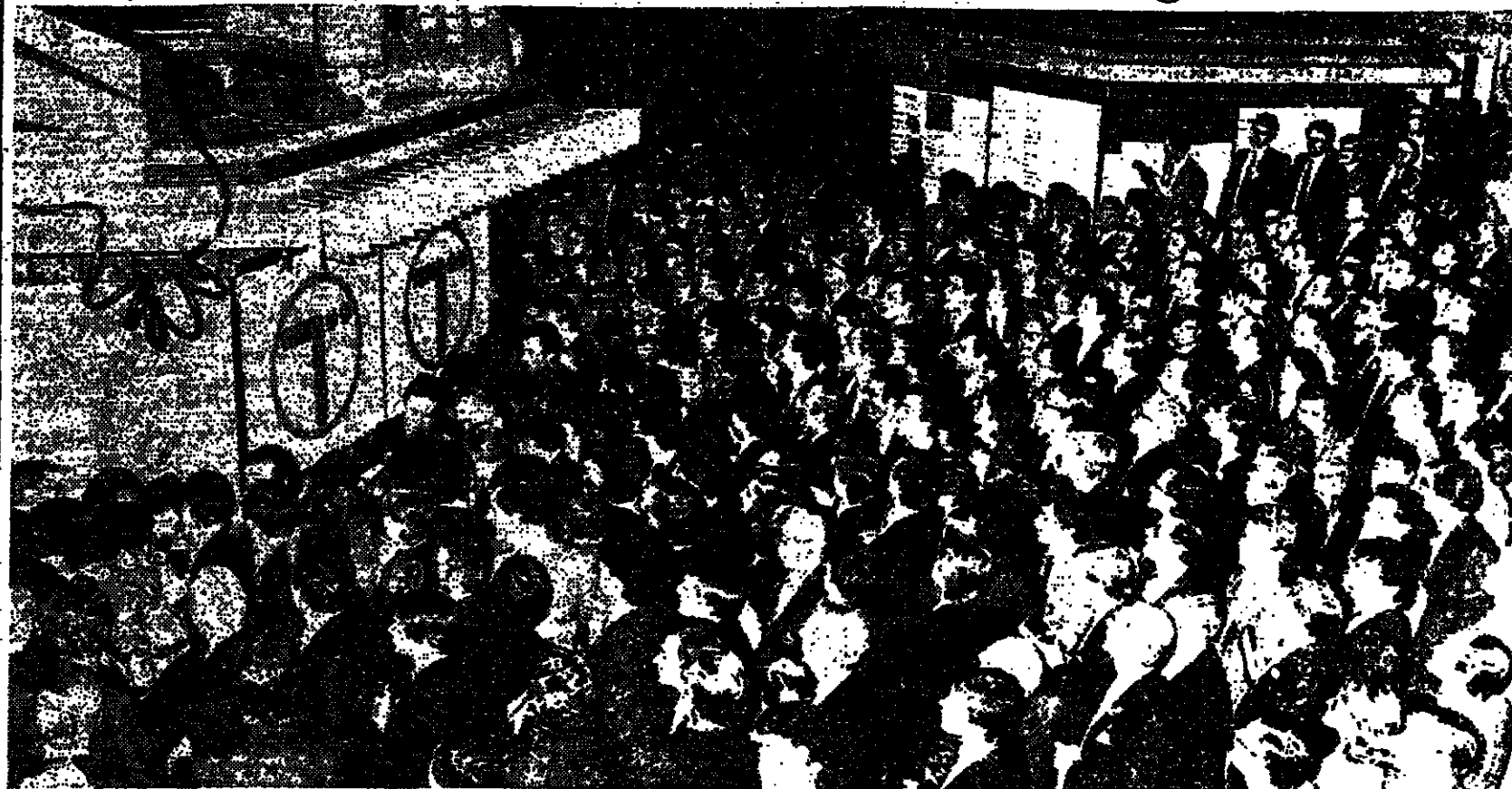
The hearing continues today. Two former heroin addicts, John Leitchman, aged 30, and Leslie Metcalf, aged 31, admitted they were once regular heroin users when police raided their flats, both at Franklin Road, Harrogate, in June, York Crown Court heard yesterday.

The court was told the two men were now part of a local group set up to combat drug abuse in Harrogate.

The judge, Mr Raymond Dean, QC, deferred sentence for six months to see if the former addicts would stay away from drugs.

"If you slip back into the habit it will be a question of a substantial prison sentence for each of you," he said.

Telecom investors get a taste of Stock Exchange's hectic life



The scene on the floor of the Stock Exchange (above) yesterday, the first day of trading in British Telecom shares and (below) Mr and Mrs Higgins, a newly married couple with an unorthodox source of funds (Photographs: John Manning).

'Now the bill can be paid'

By Paul Valley

Unseemly marks of condensation and perspiration clouded the plate glass windows which overlook the floor of the Stock Exchange in London by the time that trading in British Telecom shares closed at the extended time of 6pm last night.

For once, the traditional jostling and shoving of the dealers beneath was rivalled by the over-excited activity in the visitors' gallery. Hundreds of new British Telecom shareholders had gathered there to witness the workings of an institution that has provided them already with a profit of more than 90 per cent of their

initial investment of 50p a share. For many of them it was their first venture into the realm of risk-taking investment and the necessary capital had been obtained, in at least one case, from an unorthodox source.

A newly married couple had taken the £100 they needed to obtain the minimum issue of 200 shares from the money they had put on one side to pay the photographer for the album of photographs of their recent wedding.

"We'll be able to pay him now", Mr David Higgins, aged 32, who had taken a late lunch

with his wife, Lynda, to visit the Stock Exchange, said. The couple, who both work at a branch of the Midland Bank in the City, were determined to sell even before official notification of their allocation arrived in the post next week. "We might have been tempted to hang on to the shares", Mrs Higgins said. "But we need the cash. Still, it has been a good investment already."

Mr Robert Feltham, aged 35, an engineer in the international division of British Telecom, also intended to sell.

Market report, page 19



Stores get ready for bumper Christmas

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Christmas shopping rush is a little late this year compared with 1983. But retailers are still convinced it will be a bumper Christmas for spending.

That picture emerged yesterday when final retail figures for spending in the shops in October showed not as sharp a downturn as had been indicated in earlier provisional figures.

The October retail volume sales index was 113.5 (1980: 100) compared with the provisional figure of 113.2.

It still leaves October sales below the high September index of 114.5 but the overall trend in sales is still upward. The three months from August to October showed a 1.5 per cent rise on the previous three months and was 4 per cent up on the same period last year.

Spending by value in October was up 8 per cent on the same month last year, indicating some start to Christmas spending during the month. But substantial Christmas spending began to show through only by mid-November at the 21 department stores of the John Lewis Partnership. Asda, the supermarket arm of Associated Dairies Group, said yesterday.

"While Christmas trade is picking up there is no sign of the early and major rise in

spending on the scale seen last year."

But given the rising trend in sales the Retail Consortium, trade body for most of the retailers, is still looking to improved Christmas sales compared with last year.

A late Christmas rush could put pressure on retailers to open on Sunday, thus running the risk of prosecutions by local authorities.

Habitat plans to open its two main central London stores on Sunday in the run-up to Christmas in addition to those at Wallingford, Maidstone and Canterbury.

John Lewis, one of the strongest trade critics of Sunday opening, is extending its weekly opening hours to catch more Christmas trade.

Some areas of high unemployment are doing unexpectedly well. The North East Co-operative Society, third largest retail society using the Co-op banner, said yesterday that non-food sales were going well even in the mining areas of mid-Northumberland.

Beer production in October jumped 12.4 per cent on annual comparison as public houses and shops started stocking up for Christmas, the Brewers Society said.

Decision on lead-free petrol soon

British car and petrol manufacturers are expecting European environment ministers to decide later this week on a single grade of lead-free petrol to be introduced throughout the Continent (Colin Hughes writes).

Parliament will debate the lead-in-petrol issue tonight to give Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State at the Department of the Environment, a free hand at the European meeting on Thursday to press for all new cars to be built for lead-free petrol from January 1, 1989.

The United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association said yesterday that it hoped European ministers would decide on one date, and resolve which grades of petrol would be used, so that both car manufacturers and oil refiners had time to invest and develop for the change.

Thursday's meeting is expected to decide that one grade of middle octane fuel, probably 95 (or about 3-star), should be introduced throughout Europe. The motor manufacturers, particularly would prefer retaining high and low-grade fuel - 92 (or about 2-star).

Hormone implant for sex offender

A judge yesterday ordered a man who admitted sex offences against children to have an operation to take away his sexual drive.

After leaving Huddersfield Crown Court, West Yorkshire, Harry Horbury, aged 48, who had admitted three charges of gross indecency with girls aged 11 and 12 and two of indecently assaulting girls aged 11, was

taken to Halifax General Hospital.

He will spend a month there after having an implant in his groin that will release female hormones into his system. Horbury, of Linton Road, Eastmoor, Wakefield, will have the implant renewed every three months.

After being told that Horbury was willing to have the treat-

ment, the judge deferred his decision until yesterday when he put Horbury on probation for three years on condition that he had the treatment.

● Hormone prescriptions, although the treatment of last resort, have become increasingly common in efforts to keep sex offenders out of prison (a Staff Reporter writes).

The Queen gets plea against under-age Pill

The Queen has been sent a declaration by religious leaders recommending children should not be prescribed contraceptives without their parents' consent (Nicholas Timmins writes).

The declaration has been organized by Mrs Victoria Gillick, the mother of 10 children from Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, who is awaiting a Court of Appeal judgement in her case against the Cambridge Health Authority in which she is seeking legal backing for parents' right to be told.

Best released on bail after being jailed

George Best, the footballer, was released on bail by a High Court judge yesterday pending his appeal against a 12-week prison sentence.

Best, 38, applied to the judge for bail after it was earlier refused by a stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, central London, where he was sentenced to prison.

He is to appeal against the sentence, imposed for a drink-driving offence, assaulting a police officer, and failing to answer bail.

Mr Justice Skinner, sitting in

Diplomat made false claims for expenses

A British diplomat made false claims because he believed that was a perquisite to which all Foreign Office staff were entitled.

But James Gilmartin, aged 48, first secretary (administration) at the British High Commission in Singapore, destroyed his career when he was caught. Bow Street magistrates in London were told yesterday that he "lost everything" for the sake of just over £1,000.

He was sentenced to eight weeks' imprisonment, suspended for a year.

His counsel Mr Richard Onslow, said: "It cost him 30 years' service in the Foreign Office, where he was highly regarded, a criminal record, and his pension."

The court was told that Gilmartin, who is married with two children, wrote in a letter to the Foreign Office: "I was under the totally misguided conception that subsistence allowances were perks of the job."

The court was told that from November 20 to December 20 last year Gilmartin was on a course in London. He claimed that he was living at the house of his parents-in-law in Northumberland and staying at the Civil Service Club in Great Scotland Yard, Mr Gerald Adams, for the prosecution, said.

He was, however, living at his home in Hertford, and commuting each day.



'Pocketwatch' displays currency rates

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

An electronic terminal about the size of a pack of cigarettes and linked to Reuters business computers will display the exchange rates of all the key currencies on its small screen 24 hours a day at the touch of a button.

The unit, which will cost executives £50 a month, have their currency information updated every two minutes and allow the users to be in constant touch with the foreign currency market, whether at

home, in a restaurant or while travelling. During the 24-hour cycle the unit provides the dollar exchange rate against sterling, the German mark, Swiss franc, yen and the French franc. New York and Hong Kong are still dealing after the London market has closed so users of the new Reuter service, called Pocketwatch, can check the Asian market before they leave home in the morning and the US market before going to bed.

A NEW INTERNATIONAL NAME. THE SAME EXPERTISE WORLDWIDE.



On January 1st, 1985 a new name goes up over the door of many bank buildings throughout Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

On that day, The Standard Bank and The Chartered Bank formally adopt the name of their parent group—Standard Chartered.

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competitive currency dealing on a 24-hour-a-day basis, and a knowledge of world markets, contacts and opportunities based on nearly 130 years of specialisation in international trade.

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£315,000 damages after fall

Mr Alan Stratton, aged 22, was awarded £315,000 damages in the High Court yesterday for an accident that has left him paralysed and blind in one eye.

Mr Stratton, who was aged 17 at the time, was working as a heating engineer and fell through the roof of the building he was working on in Ascot, Berkshire, in June, 1980.

He suffered very severe head and spinal injuries and is confined to a wheelchair.

The damages and costs are to be paid by Coolrite, of Seymour Place, Westminster, London, who denied liability.

Robbery charge

Mr Andrew Stevenson, aged 33, of Ashfield Road, Finchley, north London, and Mr Sean Buckley, aged 30, of Stamford Hill, north London, were charged yesterday with robbery and conspiracy to rob a Brinks-Mat security van at Merstham, Surrey, last Thursday. They were remanded in custody for three days.

Skinner accused

Royal Navy Commander Colin Hamilton, of Devonport, Devon, was charged yesterday with causing the death of a Royal Navy sailor, HMS Jupiter, by negligence and recklessness.

Mr Hamilton, 44, was charged with causing the death of a sailor, HMS Jupiter, by negligence and recklessness.

Art connoisseur

Mr Edward James, the millionaire art connoisseur and grandson of King Edward VIII, of West Dean, near Chichester, West Sussex, died on Sunday at San Remo, Italy. He was 77.

Marilyn fined

The pop star Marilyn was yesterday fined £125 by magistrates at Basingstoke for driving without reasonable consideration and speeding on the M3, his second motoring conviction in a week.

Tapestry tales

Orkney is making a tapestry to depict all aspects of its history compiled from squares of needlework sent in from its islands. When completed it will hang in Kirkwall Town Hall.

Axe head curb

The National Trust is taking steps to stop people from hunting for stone axe heads at the 5,000-year-old Stone Age Axe Factories on Pike O'Sickle in the Langdales, Lake District.

Sizewell reactor workers 'risk double planned radiation dose'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The exposure of workers to radiation at the proposed Sizewell pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power station in Suffolk would be more than twice that estimated in the plans of the Central Electricity Generating Board, according to evidence submitted yesterday to the public inquiry into the plant.

The conclusion is contained in a study of exposure to radiation of power station workers at plants of the same type operating in France.

The analysis was made by M. Jean-Claude Zerbib, a radiation protection engineer, who works for the trade union CFDT. He is a representative on the French Government's Casaling Commission that is examining the question of disposing of radioactive wastes.

The findings form one of the key documents in the Anti-PWR Consortium of Trade Unions and Local Authorities is submitting to the inquiry.

M. Zerbib explained yesterday the reasons for the high levels of exposure from PWRs in France.

It is well known that PWR reactors create a higher level of exposure for workers than the British-type gas-cooled reactors. It is inherent in the difference of design.

M. Zerbib said exposures to power station workers could be divided between the dose during normal operations and that received during the weeks

when fuel changing and maintenance was going on. One-fifth of the annual exposure was during normal operations.

The figure that M. Zerbib challenged was a so-called target set by the generating board which would put the exposure of workers to radiation at 200 rems a year. M. Zerbib said French experience showed doses in practice to be 430 rems.

He added that that was even with the use of special equipment, such as robots, to carry out work in parts of the plant where exposure levels were highest.

Mr Dennis Murphy, British Nuclear Fuels personnel and administration manager, told Chester magistrates yesterday that the company's plant at Capenhurst, near Chester, enriched uranium for nuclear submarines (our Chester Correspondent writes). He was giving evidence in the trial of nine women peace protesters accused of criminal damage at the plant in March.

Questioned by one of the defendants, Miss Marion Hersh, of Brighton, Mr Murphy said the building allegedly damaged was in a restricted area known as A3. He added: "The A3 plant produces enriched uranium for the Ministry of Defence. It will be used to fuel Trident nuclear submarines."

The hearing was adjourned until today.



Mrs Elizabeth Green, aged 57, outside the Co-op shop she worked in for 22 years until 1962. The shop has been moved five miles to the Beamish Open Air Museum, co Durham, and she is working in the shop again as a guide.

Drug squad sets up anonymous phone link

Scotland Yard's drug squad opened a confidential telephone line yesterday to encourage the public to pass on information about drug dealers and the illicit drug markets in London (our Crime Reporter writes).

The system is similar to a confidential telephone line used by the police in Belfast to try to combat terrorism. There, posters and newspaper advertisements were used to spread knowledge of the line.

Anyone who rings 01-230 2121 will hear a recorded message: "Drugs information line. If you have any information which you feel might help police to combat drug abuse... Callers are told to pass information to the answerphone."

Det Chief Sup Roy Penrose, head of the drug squad, said the system would reach people who might have information but were reluctant to come face to face with the police.

Police drop damages claim over Yard HQ

A five-year legal wrangle over a Scotland Yard claim for damages concerning its headquarters building, said to have totalled more than £5 million, has been settled (our Home Affairs Correspondent writes).

The Yard has abandoned its action against Chapman Taylor Partners, the architects, and the Bylander Waddell Partnership, the structural engineers. The hearing into the alleged defects in the granite cladding of New Scotland Yard was due to be heard in the High Court next month.

The Metropolitan Police has also abandoned its claim for damages against the Greater London Council Mr A D Gordon-Brown, the Metropolitan Police receiver, has agreed to pay the GLC £50,000 as a contribution towards its costs of defending the court action.

No damages were paid by Chapman Taylor Partners or the Bylander Waddell Partnership, a spokesman for the architects said.

Temple Bar move opposed

A £1 million scheme to move the decaying Temple Bar monument, thought to be designed by Sir Christopher Wren, from Theobalds Park, Enfield, north London, to the steps of St Pauls is being opposed by the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission.

In spite of offers of £250,000 each from the Department of the Environment and the

National Heritage Memorial Fund, the commission told a public inquiry yesterday that it would resist the move because of the cost to the public.

But the trustees of the Temple Bar, which was moved from its original site across Fleet Street in 1878, claim that a further £500,000 could be raised through City institutions and the American Bar Association.

EEC food surpluses: 2

Strong dollar and Russians can ease grain crisis

In the second of three articles on the EEC food mountains, JOHN YOUNG, Agriculture Correspondent, examines the problems of grain and livestock producers.

Last month, the Ministry of Agriculture disclosed with near disbelief that this year's grain harvest was expected to be little short of 27 million tonnes, almost a quarter more than last year's record. It was a formidable technical achievement, but presenting no less formidable an economic headache.

For British growers were not alone in their success. EEC cereal production in 1984 is estimated to be about 148 million tonnes, with wheat production up from 55 million to 70 million tonnes.

Two things prevent the cereals crisis from reaching the proportions of the dairy industry. First, grain can always be sold somewhere in the world, if the price is right, especially if, as usually happens, the Soviet harvest fails to come up to expectations.

The other is the strength of the dollar, which has brought EEC prices more or less into line with the world market. In recent weeks the European Commission has been in the unusual position of not having to pay export subsidies, thus

saving money and being spared the opprobrium of American producers who regularly accuse it of stealing their markets by "dumping".

Whatever happens to exchange rates in the coming months, the Commission is determined on a policy of price restraint. It has introduced "guarantee thresholds", whereby the intervention price is reduced by 1 per cent for every million tonnes by which production exceeds a stipulated target. That means intervention prices will fall by 5 per cent next year.

But there is considerable uncertainty over how far prices need to fall in relative terms before production decreases.

Realists, however, concede that artificially high grain prices have distorted the balance between grain and livestock.

It is time, they say, to accept that about 70 per cent of grain ends up as animal food.

Arable and dairy farmers may face an uncertain future but, by comparison, they have had it too good for too long. Pig producers are emerging from a prolonged price depression and, given the fecundity of sows and the consequent disinclination in Brussels to offer even minimal price support, the difficulties could well recur.

The poultry industry, which made great strides in the 1960s and 1970s in producing alternatives to red meat at highly

competitive prices, is threatened by French and German competition, especially since the Government has been forced to drop the import ban which it had maintained, unconvincedly, because of the fowl pest threat.

Despite competition from New Zealand, British sheep farmers have enjoyed two or three relatively good years since the reintroduction of a deficiency payment, which has virtually doubled their returns. But the "variable premium" paid to beef cattle farmers is widely seen as an unfair subsidy, reflecting British producers' failure to adapt to changing tastes.

Tomorrow: Spain and Portugal

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The Dublin summit

Kohl backs Thatcher as wrangle starts over EEC enlargement

From Ian Murray, Dublin

Protected by an anti-terrorist screen round Dublin Castle, the 10 leaders of the EEC yesterday fought over the conditions for Europe's two newest democracies to join the Community.

By this evening they are meant to have found a way to drain the EEC's wine lake, smoothed the way of Spain and Portugal into the Community by 1986, settled the British budget problem once and for all, agreed on the economic and social situation, prepared a common position towards the second Reagan Administration, plotted European union and taken steps to stop famine in Africa.

It is an ambitious programme and Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, is already smarting from criticism from an American journalist that he has ill-prepared this summit and that failure is inevitable. His personal spokesman described the charge angrily as "a load of rubbish", but could not deny the negotiating enormity of the task ahead.

FitzGerald was also running a poor second best to Mrs Thatcher in grabbing everyone's attention. For security reasons, she alone travelled by helicopter from the airport to the lunch with Mr Patrick Hillery, the Irish President, and then into the old exercise yard of Dublin Castle, for the meeting. Even inside the castle's fastness she was exposed to any terrorist attempt for a mere 25 yards.

The other heads of government drove in a fleet of Mercedes from the President's palace to the castle, through the roadblocks and massed ranks of police in the city centre. Terrorism was one subject on the agenda of the Foreign Ministers at the summit, "but", said an official, "the less you hear about it the more you can assume they have agreed".

There was a hint from the Irish spokesman of how forthcoming the final statements might be. Although Mrs Thatcher had been seen stepping from a brown RAF Westland Wessex into the castle yard, he would go no further than to say that if journalists thought someone had been seen arriving by helicopter they were entitled to think so.

Perhaps because the main subject under discussion was wine, Mrs Thatcher was wearing an outfit described by her spokesman as "claret". Like the other leaders, she had to immerse herself in the subject from the beginning, with a study of a new paper of compromises put together by Dr FitzGerald after his weekend visits to Paris and Rome.

The paper was remarkably similar to previous ones, insisting on a method of obligatory

distillation for surplus production - a formula which has so far run into total Italian opposition. The best hope was that the kind of intense political pressure obtainable only at summits would be sufficient to force a breakthrough.

Over dinner last night Dr FitzGerald meant to move the subject away from the excesses of the past towards the possibilities of the future. In a discussion on the special report on European union he was to sound out how far down the road to integration the other countries were prepared to go.

Mrs Thatcher, branded with the Danes and the Greeks as being in opposition to the ideas, was to insist that it would be better to get on with completing the Common Market they all belonged to, rather than to talk about new treaties.

Earlier in the debate on economic policy, she had pressed a similar argument. She was not impressed by an appeal from Dr FitzGerald for a common reflation. National economies had to be put right nationally, she said, and the Community could help by opening internal borders, harmonizing standards and integrating new technology.

There was broad support for this approach from Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor. "We are being outgunned," he said.



Wave of hope: Mr Herbert Blaize, New National Party leader, waves leaving home on Carriacou island before polling yesterday in Grenada's first election since 1976. Voting was calm under the eyes of US officials and Caribbean troops who invaded in October 1983.

Diplomatic pressure in the Middle East

Cairo joins chorus for crisis conference

From Christopher Walker, Cairo

Egypt yesterday added its considerable weight to the growing call in the Arab world for the immediate staging of an international conference on the Middle East, which would involve the full participation of the Soviet Union.

The unexpected move - regarded as a significant change in the bargaining stance of the largest Arab country - came in a strongly-worded joint communiqué issued at the close of the three-day visit here by King Hussein of Jordan, his first since Egypt signed its peace treaty with Israel.

The addition of Egypt to the list of those nations demanding an international conference was seen as leading to a possible expanded role for Moscow in Middle East diplomacy after years of American dominance.

Although successive Israeli governments have flatly rejected Jordanian demands for such a conference under United Nations auspices, the Egyptian move was thought likely to increase pressure on the United States, either to change its opposition to a conference or to come forward with a new peace initiative of its own.

Yesterday's communiqué confirmed Egyptian and Jordanian support for the Palestine Liberation Organization as the

sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and spoke of the organization being granted a role in determining a future for the Palestinians "as they see fit".

The careful language was interpreted as a significant departure from the terms of the Camp David accords which gave no role to the PLO. It followed news that the PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, is soon to make an official visit here.

Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Prime Minister, was later asked whether the communiqué and Cairo's endorsement of the five-point peace plan proposed at last week's meeting of the Palestine National Council meant Egypt no longer respected the Camp David accords. "We respect Camp David and respect our signature on it, but with our own interpretation on it," he replied.

There was a suggestion among Arab sources that Egypt's switch might open the way to a long-term reconciliation with Syria. President Assad is also a strong supporter of an international forum for the participation of the Soviet Union, one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Senior aides of President Mubarak went out of their way

yesterday to deny suggestions that another Arab state - Syria or Libya - had planned to launch an air attack against Parliament when it was being addressed by the Jordanian monarch on Sunday.

The reports, on the front page of the semi-official *Al-Ahram*, reawakened fears here of an armed clash with Libya.

President Mubarak's decision to drop his earlier scepticism about an international conference was taken as cementing the formation of an alliance of conservative Arab states willing to promote talks with Israel over the occupied West Bank.

The joint communiqué published soon after King Hussein's departure from Amman, said in its key paragraph: "The two sides agreed on the importance of convening an international peace conference under the supervision of the UN, in which all parties concerned, including the PLO, would participate."

There have been repeated reports from official sources that King Hussein will soon pay an official visit to Moscow. American diplomats in Amman are worried that he might be weakening the pro-Western stance of his policy.

One of the main themes of the Mubarak-Hussein summit has been the pressing need for Arab unity. This has been reinforced by hints from senior

officials that the Syrian Golan Heights, annexed by Israel in 1981, should also appear on the agenda of future negotiations.

● Tel Aviv: Mr Shimon Peres, Israel's Prime Minister, invited King Hussein to drop the proposal for an international conference and instead to meet him without preconditions (Moshe Brilliant writes).

Speaking in the Knesset in Jerusalem, Mr Peres promised that any ideas would be seriously considered. He was giving the assurance with the entire Government, indicating that the hardline Likud wing subscribed to the formulation.

Mr Peres said Security Council resolution 242 of 1967, which calls for a withdrawal of Israeli forces from territory occupied in the Six-Day War, could be a basis for negotiation but not a precondition.

● NAQOURA: Lebanon yesterday submitted a plan for the deployment of its army in the south at the seventh session of talks on Israeli troop withdrawal from the region, conference spokesmen said (Reuters reports).

The Israeli spokesman, Colonel Yona Gazit, welcomed the move. "We are glad that the Lebanese delegation responded to our many requests to deal with military matters."

Hammer to talk with Chernenko

Moscow (Reuters) - Mr Armand Hammer, aged 86, head of Occidental Petroleum, will meet President Chernenko today to try to arrange regular meetings between US and Soviet leaders.

Mr Hammer, who has met every Kremlin leader except President Andropov, yesterday visited the US Ambassador to Moscow, Mr Arthur Hartman.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kremlin second-in-command, discussed US-Soviet trade and economic links yesterday with Mr Dwayne Andreas, an American businessman.

Kabul replaces defence chief

Islamabad (Reuters) President Babrak Karmal named the Army Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Nazam Mohammad, as defence minister, replacing Lieutenant-General Abdul Qadir, Kabul Radio reported.

A Revolutionary Council announcement said General Qadir, who became defence minister in September 1982, had been appointed a vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Council Presidium headed by Mr Karmal.

Poison gift for journalists

Paris (AFP) - Greenpeace sent bottles of deadly poison as an unusual present to 30 journalists, the French environment Ministry and the British Embassy here.

Each bottle contained two litres of titanium dioxide, which it said industry pours daily into the North Sea, English Channel and the Seine.

Moro review

Rome - A heavily guarded appeals court began reviewing the sentences handed out last year to 63 Red Brigades guerrillas convicted of kidnapping and killing in 1978 Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader. Half the defendants are serving life terms.

Mafia revenge

Palermo (Reuters) - A former Mafia member who turned police informer in 1972 is in a coma after being shot by two men outside his home. His mother and sister, returning from church with him, were wounded.

25 executed

Tehran (Reuters) - Twenty five drug smugglers and dealers were hanged at dawn in Tehran's Qasr Prison, Tehran radio reported.

Blowfly blow

Sydney (Reuters) - Five million mutant flies are being set free in Australia to control sheep blowfly, which costs graziers \$100 million a year. It is hoped the blowfly, which mate only once, will mix with the genetically altered variety and their offspring die.

Correction

The Attorney-General of Australia is Senator Gareth Evans, not Mr Ian Temby, as stated on November 28. Mr Temby is the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions.

Chemical disaster

Security to be tighter in Britain

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Methyl isocyanate, the chemical which caused the death of more than 300 people in Bhopal, central India, yesterday, is considered so dangerous that any British company using or storing it would have to file contingency plans to deal with the consequences of a leakage.

Colourless, odourless and highly volatile, its most lethal aspect in the event of an escape into the atmosphere is that it would probably be impossible to contain within a factory or warehouse.

Stringent regulations governing the use of the chemical have been in existence for more than a decade and are to be tightened again early next year.

The introduction of new legislation would make it obligatory for companies storing more than one ton of the liquid to notify the Health and Safety Inspectorate. Inspectors would make regular visits and liaise with local authorities to maintain safety.

In fact no British company now uses methyl isocyanate and only one European company, Bayer of Cologne, produces it.

Tanker ablaze after Gulf missile attack

Bahrain (Reuters) - A Cypriot supertanker heading for Iran to load oil was hit by a missile and left blazing in the Gulf yesterday, ending a six-week lull in attacks on shipping in the Iran-Iraq war.

Shipping sources said three of the 27 crew on board the 189,405-ton tanker *Minotaur* were missing after the attack 40 miles south of the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island.

In Baghdad, an Iraqi military spokesman said Iraqi jets had hit a "large naval target" on a mission aimed at continuing the blockade of Kharg Island and other Iranian ports.

Iran, which depends on income from oil to finance its four-year-old war with Iraq, recently launched a big effort to sell more oil. Diplomats in

Tehran estimate Iran's oil exports have more than doubled over the past two months to more than two million barrels a day.

The *Minotaur*, which was able to carry more than 380,000 tonnes of oil, was believed to be the largest vessel hit so far in the Gulf shipping war, shipping sources said.

At least three salvage tugs were believed to be heading towards the *Minotaur*. The tanker had been one of several dozen ships lying outside the Gulf off the port of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates when it was chartered last week.

The *Minotaur* was the forty-third merchant vessel hit in attacks this year by Iran or Iraq, the last attack on a tanker was on October 15.

Draw after 13 moves in Moscow

Moscow (AP) - Anatoly Karpov and Gari Kasparov yesterday played their quickest draw so far in the world chess title contest here, the 29th game lasting only 13 moves.

Kasparov, the challenger, who is trailing Karpov, defending champion by 0-5, offered the draw.

● SALONIKA: By defeating Colombia 3½ to ½, England moved into second place in the Chess Olympiad here where the 13th round games were completed yesterday. With 34½ points they are a point ahead of the United States. Hungary (32½) and Romania (31½) are fourth and fifth. The gold medal is in the hands of the Soviet Union (38½) already. The deciding games for the lower places will be played today.

Thirteenth round results: Hungary 2, Philippines 2; Colombia 1½, England 3½; Yugoslavia 2½, Holland 1½; China 2½, Poland 1½; Argentina 1½, Bulgaria 2½; Australia 1, France 2 (one game unfinished); Iceland 2, Denmark 2; Sweden 1½, Spain 2½; Brazil 3½, Switzerland 1½; Norway 2½, Belgium 1½.

Western's 13th round results: England 1½, Romania 1½; Brazil 1, Bulgaria 2; Sweden 1½, W Germany 1½; Spain 3, Colombia 0; Canada 2, Switzerland 1; France 2½, Finland 1½.

Share rush on the Bosphorus

From Rasit Gardilek, Ankara

Turks turned out in strength yesterday to grab a share of the revenues of the suspension bridge spanning the Bosphorus, the first of the state assets to be privatized by Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister.

The sale of revenue partnership certificates of differing values totalling about \$10 million was completed within hours of their issue, according to the state radio.

In a statement Mr Ozal said the enthusiasm for the shares was a sign of the public's trust in his Government's economic policies. The controversial sale of the revenues of profitable state concerns as a means of creating funds for further investment was an important part of Mr Ozal's campaign platform in the general election 13 months ago.

However, the parliamentary Opposition which has opposed the idea all along, was as hostile as ever to the sale. The Populist Party censured the Government for proceeding with the sale yesterday without waiting for the verdict of the Constitutional Court on the Populist Party's application to block it.

Mr Ozal, encouraged by the result, is preparing for the issue of further shares



Giving thanks: Bishop Tutu delivering his Washington sermon in which he expressed gratitude to those protesting against Pretoria's 'evil and immoral' policies. Sixteen people, including five congressmen, have been arrested outside the South African Embassy.

Sri Lanka violence toll tops 270

From Our Correspondent, Colombo

Twenty suspected Tamil separatists held in an army camp were shot dead in an attempted breakout, official sources said yesterday as the death toll in two weeks of ethnic-related violence in Sri Lanka rose to more than 270.

The escape attempt on Sunday at the Vavuniya camp, about 160 miles north of Colombo, came as militants opened fire on the post, killing a sentry and wounding two soldiers, according to a radio report. Officials said four prisoners escaped into the

surrounding jungle in the northern province of Jaffna, where authorities have been arming non-Tamil civilians to fight off any new raids.

The Government denied reports in a government-controlled newspaper that a 100-strong group of rebels had attacked Talaimannar, from where the Indo-Sri Lanka ferry operates. A spokesman said some Tamils had thrown firecrackers at Sinhalese fishermen and also burnt some of their huts. A police party which went to the scene fired at the youths, killing one of them.

In another incident at Talaimannar, a number of youths who landed in two boats escaped into the jungle, but police destroyed their boats.

Officials said that 13 separatists had also been killed in two separate battles near Vavuniya, and one sentry was shot dead by a sniper.

The latest official reports brought to 277 the number of people reported killed since mid-November.

● BERNE: The Swiss Government insisted yesterday that about 1500 Tamil separatists who are seeking asylum would be returned eventually to Sri Lanka, but for the time being no one would be sent home (AP reports).

Reagan turns to Africa amid anti-Pretoria mood

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan yesterday diverted his attention from arms control talks and the debate over the federal budget to the problems of racial unrest and starvation in Africa.

He met Mr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, who briefed him on Namibia and the continuing turmoil inside South Africa.

Later, the President saw members of congressional delegation which has just returned from a fact-finding tour of Ethiopia. The meetings followed growing demonstrations in the United States against Pretoria's racial policies and the Reagan Administration's "constructive engagement" with South Africa.

Protests, which have held every day outside the South African Embassy here since November 21, spread to consul-

ates and commercial offices in other parts of the country.

Sixteen people, including five black congressmen, have deliberately got themselves arrested outside the Embassy as part of an orchestrated attempt to focus the public's attention on the situation.

On Sunday, Bishop Desmond Tutu, the Nobel peace laureate, praised the protesters in a sermon he delivered at Washington's Anglican cathedral. "Whatever you do to protest this evil system does not go without notice among those for whom it has been done."

Sensitive to criticisms that the Reagan Administration is far too lenient with South Africa, Mr Crocker sought to demonstrate that "constructive engagement" had achieved positive results for black South Africans.

Stockholm talks may be at turning point

Stockholm (Reuters) - The 35-country European Disarmament Conference agreed yesterday on a new working structure which delegates from all sides said it would enable it to begin serious negotiations on reducing the risk of war in Europe.

This could be a "turning point", the US ambassador to Stockholm, Mr James Goodby, said in a written statement. The Soviet Ambassador, Mr Oleg Grinevsky, agreed it will certainly contribute to a more favourable international climate.

Soon the lions of Singapore will have plenty to roar about. Starting January 16th 1985, Air Canada is flying to Bombay and Singapore. Flights leave London Heathrow at the civilised hour of 11.45. Every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The only direct morning flights.

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Labour split as Hawke and Hayden differ over poll failure

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne

Australia's Labour Government was divided yesterday over why it had failed so badly in Saturday's election. There was a swing of 1.7 per cent against, compared with opinion poll predictions of between 2.5 and 3.3 per cent in the Government's favour.

Mr Bob Hawke, Australia's Prime Minister, said he was satisfied that the majority of the abnormally high number of invalid votes cast, 6.9 per cent of the total, had been intended for Labour. In the previous Parliament, Labour had a 25-seat majority, which is likely to fall by as many as 10 seats after Saturday's poll.

Mr Bill Hayden, the Foreign Minister, did not agree with Mr Hawke. He said invalid votes were not the only reason. "To argue that that's all that there is in this problem is to start erecting an alibi with much thin shelling around it," Mr Hayden said.

He described the result as dreadful and a failure. After meeting Mr Hawke yesterday, he said: "I have quite willingly undertaken to make no further such comment. But I made it very clear to the Prime Minister there is no way in the world in which I withdraw."

It seemed that Labour voters were almost exclusively vulnerable to making mistakes and that the really bright voters voted for the Liberal Party, Mr Hayden said. He could not accept that Saturday's result should serve as a warning to the

Government which it would be wise to recognize.

Earlier this year, Mr Hayden formed a centre-left faction within the party which some commentators saw as a possible future threat to Mr Hawke.

The number of invalid votes was nearly three times the previous highest figure. Mr Mick Young, the special Minister for State responsible for electoral matters, said he believed a majority of these were intended for Labour.

Many blame the voting system introduced for the Senate. Under the procedure, largely Mr Young's responsibility, instead of filling in every square on the Senate ballot paper, voters were invited to put a figure 1 in a box above the Senate team of their choice.

The system was widely publicized on television and in newspapers, but many took this to mean that the same procedure could be followed for the House of Representatives. Voters were, in fact, required to fill in every box on the ballot paper.

Mr Hawke was back at his desk in Canberra yesterday preparing for the new Government's first caucus meeting next week when his cabinet will be sworn in.

Mr Andrew Peacock, leader of the Opposition, is planning a meeting of the enlarged parliamentary Liberal Party in Canberra on Friday. He will have at least 11 new MPs.

Counting continues in the doubtful parliamentary and Senate seats. Final results for both Houses may not be known until the end of the week.



Aftermath: Bomb disposal experts examine the wrecked embassy car after their colleague's death

Athens bomb kills disposal expert

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A Greek bomb disposal expert was killed yesterday while trying to defuse one of the explosive devices planted in four Iraqi Embassy cars in Athens.

Later the police decided to take no further risks and detonated the other three devices by remote control. Two of them were under vehicles parked outside the embassy in the residential district of Psychiko, and the third was under the car of the embassy's commercial attaché at Halandri, a suburb nearby.

Police identified the dead man as Ioannis Kotsis, aged 54. They said he had been called in when the driver of the Iraqi Embassy car, a Toyota station wagon, felt there was something wrong after driving

off. He saw the bomb when he opened the bonnet and alerted the police.

Athens has long been a hotbed of Arab in-fighting. A car bomb exploded last April near the car of the Saudi Ambassador, again in Psychiko, without causing casualties. Last week an Arab was arrested at the Greek-Yugoslav border on suspicion of being the unknown assailant who tried to shoot at the Jordanian Minister in Psychiko.

The outrages coincided with recent bomb attacks against Greek targets. Large quantities of explosive were discovered and defused in time during an opposition rally in Athens last Saturday.

On November 22 six bombs exploded

within minutes of each other in the centre of the capital, causing damage to shops and offices. An unknown organization calling itself November 21 claimed responsibility.

Since then between 50 and 60 bomb hoaxes have been telephoned to the police daily, keeping the authorities alert and maintaining a climate of anxiety.

The latest bomb scare was at Athens airport yesterday just before the arrival of Mr Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French national front, who is chairing a meeting in Athens of the right-wing group in the European Parliament.

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Greeks help Albania to open window on the outside world

From Our Own Correspondent, Athens

Greece is taking the edge off its disputes with Albania in order to help this isolated and fiercely independent Communist neighbour to open a window on the outside world.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, left for Tirana yesterday on the first purely political visit at Cabinet level since the two countries resumed diplomatic relations in 1971.

Albania, which is obsessed by fears about the designs of its neighbours, particularly Yugoslavia, has welcomed the re-nunciation by Greece last February of its irredentist claims on Albania territory. This has opened the way for closer relations.

Greek analysts believe that Mr Enver Hoxha, Albania's ageing leader, who has been at the helm for the past 40 years, wants his country to be able to fall back, if need be, on reliable, friendly neighbours like Greece and Italy.

One reason is that Albania's dogged isolation and its policy of self-sufficiency since the breaks with the Soviet Union in 1961 and China in 1977, are now reflected in slowing economic development for lack of foreign technology.

Besides, Mr Hoxha is trying to ensure his own succession in a way that will safeguard the country's independence.

The man Mr Hoxha seems to be grooming for succession is Mr Ramiz Alia, aged 60, a

member of the ruling party's Central Committee for the past 32 years and head of state since October, 1982.

Mr Papoulias, who expects to meet the Albanian leaders, was due to cross the Greek-Albanian frontier at Kakavia, on the main highway linking the two countries, which was opened by the Albanians last June for the first time in 40 years - but for official visitors only.

The road leads to Tirana by way of Gjirokastra, the centre of the Greek-speaking region of southern Albania where a large Greek minority lives. It is the protection of the human rights of this minority that is, according to the Athens government, its main concern today.

The Greek minority, whose size is variously estimated at between 100,000 and 400,000, depending on the source, have their own primary schools and Greek-language newspapers. But their living conditions, like those of the rest of the people, are squalid.

During Mr Papoulias's visit he is expected to sign a series of agreements as a result of which the number of Greek teachers available for minority schools would increase, and the Kakavia Road would open to non-official traffic.

In return, the Albanians expect Greece to rescind the state or war that Greek governments have claimed has existed between the two countries since 1940 when Italy invaded Greece.

Hammer to talk with Chernenko

Moscow (AP) - Leonid Brezhnev, Soviet President, will meet Alexander Chernenko, head of the Soviet Communist Party, today to discuss the results of the election in the Soviet Union.

Kabul replaces defence chief

Moscow (AP) - The Soviet Union has replaced its defence minister with a new one, General Nikolai Ogarkov, who has been in the post since 1979.

Poison gift for journalists

London (AP) - A group of journalists who were invited to a dinner at the British Embassy in Moscow were given a gift of poison.

Moro review

Rome (AP) - A review of the situation in the southern part of Italy, where the Red Brigades are active, has been ordered by the Italian government.

Mafia revenge

Palermo (AP) - The Mafia has vowed revenge against the Italian government for its efforts to suppress the organization.

25 executed

Beijing (AP) - Twenty-five people have been executed in China for crimes related to the Cultural Revolution.

Blow fly blow

London (AP) - A blow fly has been found in a jar of honey in a shop in London.

Correction

The article on the blow fly in the previous issue of the paper contained several errors which have been corrected.

AIR CANADA

Singapore

Kenya: Maina Wa Kinyatti

By Caroline Moorehead

A senior lecturer in history at Kenyatta University College, known in particular for his writings on the Mau Mau movement, is serving a six-year prison sentence for possessing "seditious literature". Maina Wa Kinyatti's arrest, in the summer of 1982, at a moment when the university was being consciously purged of "foreign ideologies", was rapidly followed by the arrest and imprisonment of five other lecturers.

By 1982 Kenyatta University



Maina Wa Kinyatti: Six-year sentence

Filipinos reprimanded

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The Roman Catholic Primate of the Philippines, Cardinal Jaime Sin, yesterday admonished Filipinos who hoped President Ferdinand Marcos was ill and even wished he would die.

It was "terrifying" to think that most Filipinos were disappointed that Mr Marcos was not dead, Cardinal Sin said. Mr Marcos disappeared from public view three weeks ago. He has not made a public appearance since then, although he has

been shown in three short film clips on government television. Rumours that Mr Marcos is seriously ill and dying continue to circulate widely.

Cardinal Sin said: "Even if we assume that this man is responsible for most of the troubles our country is facing... it certainly is unchristian for us to wish him dead. 'You must admit there is no goodwill in our hearts if we savour all rumour that the worst possible things are befalling our President.'"

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

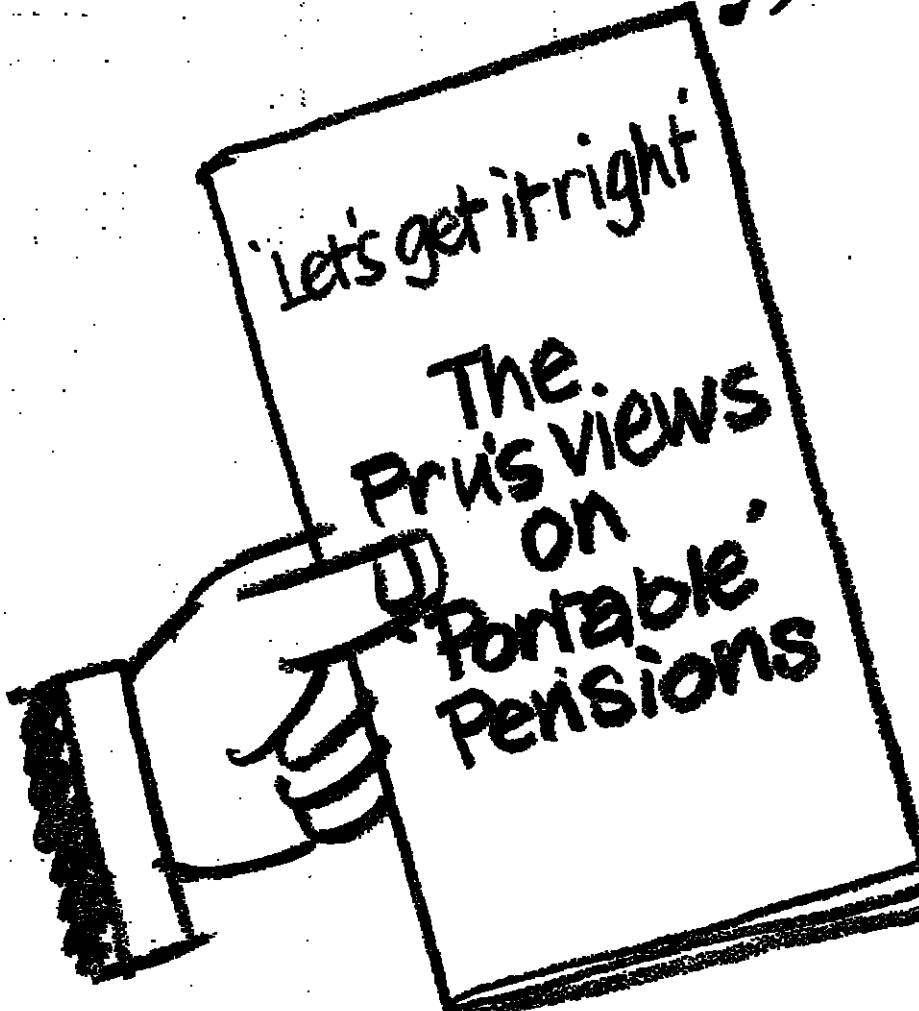
College, made autonomous in 1970, had become a centre for political opposition among students and lecturers. On several occasions, after student demonstrations supporting nationalist ideals and freedom of speech, the Government had shut the university.

In the sixties Maina Wa Kinyatti won a scholarship to a high school in the United States and later received an MA from Michigan State University, where he helped to set up an African studies curriculum, before becoming a lecturer at City University in New York. In 1975 he joined the history department at Kenyatta University College, earning a reputation for his articles on Kenyan politics and sociology.

Kenyatta prison in Nairobi, where he is now held, is notorious for its poor conditions: fleas and lice are endemic, a bright light is kept permanently on and visits are restricted to five minutes.

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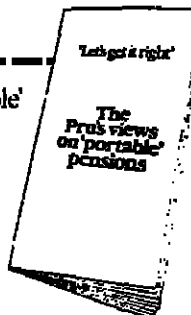
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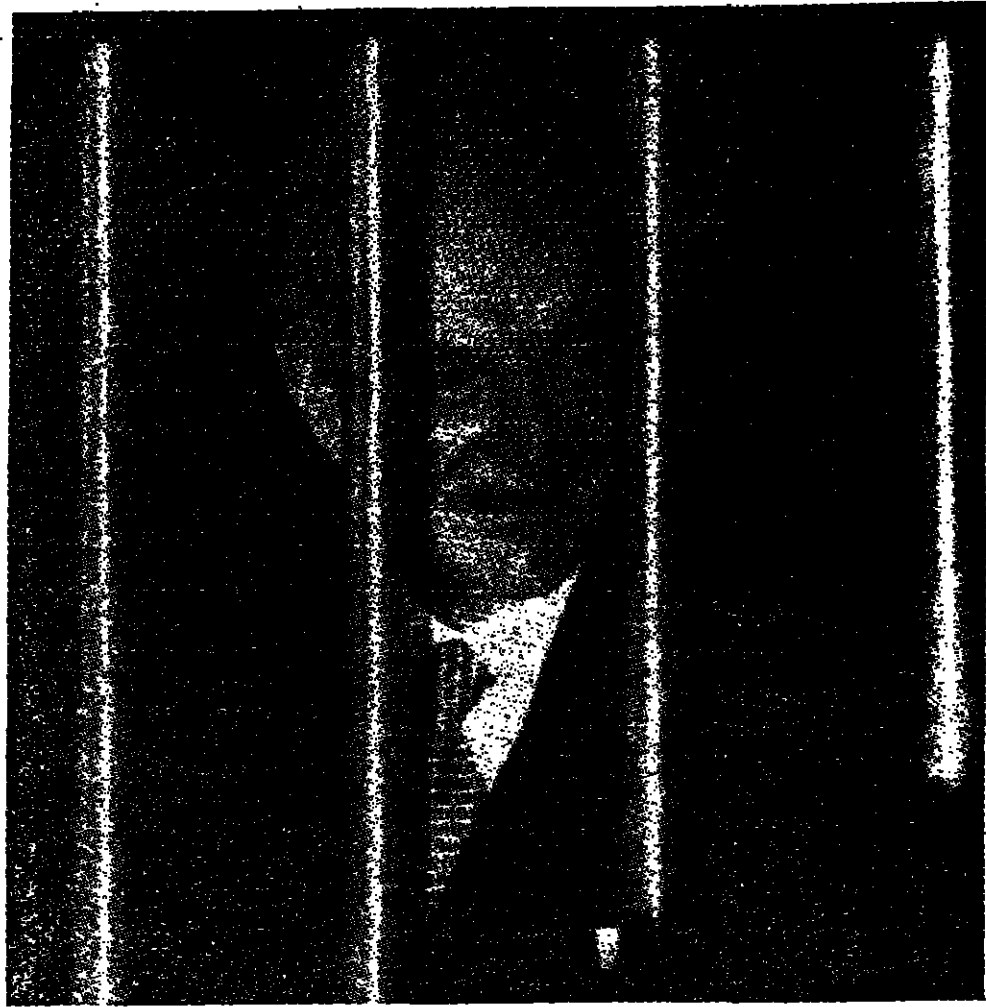


PRUDENTIAL

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Financier smiles as bankruptcy trial opens

Sindona faces first Italian court

From Peter Nichols
Rome

Behind bars: Michele Sindona, the Sicilian financier, in court in Milan yesterday.

Cries of "Michele, Michele!" from photographers hoping for a dramatic shot of Michele Sindona yesterday marked the entry of the famous criminal bankrupt, alleged accessory to murder and former financial adviser to the Vatican into the Milan courtroom where for the first time he faces criminal proceedings in his own country.

Sindona has been tried in the United States and sent to prison for 25 years by a Manhattan court. He is in Italy because modifications in the extradition treaty between the two countries allow condemned criminals to be "borrowed" to stand trial in Italy even if they have not completed the sentence imposed in the US.

Sindona was smiling and elegant in a black suit, frequently consulting his defence counsel during the opening exchanges.

He faces two sets of charges in Italy. The first arises from the collapse of his banks in 1974 when he was declared bankrupt. The second involves his alleged part in instigating the murder of Giorgio Ambrosoli, the liquidator of the banks, who was shot in July 1979.

The Italian-American killer held responsible for Ambrosoli's death has since himself died, while, so it is said, escaping from an American prison. The second Sindona trial is due early next year; an adjournment was allowed yesterday to December 12 to allow the defence more time on the banking charges.

Interest in Sindona goes far beyond the technicalities of bankruptcy or even final confirmation of who was behind the death of the highly-respected Ambrosoli.

Throughout his career, from a comparatively obscure beginning in the north-eastern Sicilian town of Patti, where he was born in 1920, he thrust ahead with the help of associates in the political as well as the economic world.

His name was in the lists of

the now banned Masonic lodge P2, which brought together in an atmosphere of conspiracy such personalities as the former heads of the secret services of the armed forces, politicians, journalists and Sindona's best-known friend in the banking world, Roberto Calvi, then head of the Banco Ambrosiano, who died hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in London in the summer of 1982. Calvi, like Sindona, had been a close associate of the Vatican Bank.

So far there is little indication whether Sindona is preparing to

try to implicate eminent people in public life or whether he proposes a technical defence on the bankruptcy charges. He is said to have made hundreds of pages of notes in his own defence during his two months of solitary confinement in a special wing of the women's prison at Boghera, near Milan.

The principal energies of his defending counsel so far have been aimed at winning a postponement of hearings on the ground that they have not had time enough, especially as some of the documentation is in

English. They also ask the court to delay the bankruptcy charges so that they may be combined in the same hearing as the Ambrosoli charges.

Sindona is understood to have written to the court objecting to the fact that he is being tried by the same judges who in July passed sentence on 22 of his associates.

Thus plea appears to have been rejected. The other two were rejected, though the court allowed an adjournment to December 12 to give the defence more time.

Solidarity in quandary over poll decision

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

Despite the political tension caused by the murder of Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Polish authorities yesterday committed themselves to holding parliamentary elections within the next year.

The Sejm the Polish Parliament, unanimously approved a short Bill dissolving Parliament on August 31, 1983. Under the constitution that means the Government will have to set a date for the elections before July 31 and they will have to be held before the end of October.

Although the Sejm is dominated by members of the Communist Party or affiliated groupings, it does not always behave in the manner of "rubber stamp" chambers in the rest of the Soviet block. The authorities have also been considering ways in which the Sejm could become more representative, including new possibilities for independent deputies.

The Solidarity opposition, which called for a boycott of local council elections, has been wondering whether to change its strategy ahead of the parliamentary vote. At least a few key Solidarity planners think that it may be possible to put a substantial and genuinely independent Catholic representation in the Sejm.

The murder of Father Popieluszko more than six weeks ago continues to hamper church-state relations and indeed most of day-to-day politics. Other priests who have been beaten or tortured are now coming forward. One said he was recently assaulted by two masked men, tied to his bed, pricked with a bayonet and burned with cigarettes.

Solidarity is convinced that vendetta squads have been operating in many parts of Poland. In at least one instance, in the Torun area, it is said that policemen were active in the squads.

French Communist hardliners challenged by militant

A swinging attack on the French Communist Party leadership was delivered yesterday by a Communist militant in the columns of *L'Humanité*, the party newspaper.

That *L'Humanité* should have agreed to publish such an attack, as part of its daily series of contributions to the debate in the run-up to the party's twenty-fifth congress, was as remarkable as the fact that a militant should have spoken out without hiding behind the cloak of anonymity.

It was essential to break with the hidebound, totally undemocratic concept of democratic socialism, as practised by the present party leadership. If the party was to have any hope of survival, M Jean Oghe, a member of the party's Essonne federation, argued.

"We are no longer in the situation of acute civil war of 1918, which according to Stalin necessitated 'an iron discipline close to military discipline as the condition of the dictatorship of the proletariat'. Yet the present leadership remains for

From Diana Geddes, Paris

the most part a prisoner of that dogma," he wrote.

"It pretends not to know about the profound movement of questioning and discontent among the mass of party members and militants to whom the leadership intends only to concede the right to 'enrich' the text [of the draft resolution for the party congress] proposed by party headquarters."

Members were being refused their right to elect new leaders, the present leaders totally rejected any self-criticism.

"The fight for a new and truly democratic functioning of the party is now the most important item on the agenda," M Oghe said.

Some Communists felt that the so-called "reformist" movement within the party has come too late, however. "What is happening now is more serious than anything that has happened in the past 40 years. I believe the party is in the process of committing suicide," one senior Communist, who

asked for his identity not to be revealed, said in an interview.

"In my view, there are three possible scenarios confronting the party. It could evolve into an Italian-style Eurocommunist party, which I think is unlikely. It could undergo a split, like the Spanish Communist Party. Or it could continue to eschew radical change and pursue its decline into a small, impotent, militant hard core, like the British Communist Party."

"It is just possible that the reformists will succeed in carrying out not a cultural revolution, as Rigout [a former Communist minister] has called for, but perhaps a cultural evolution. But it won't be soon enough. The party will have already gone into an irreversible decline. I think that the hardliners will keep the upper hand and Georges Marchais will remain as general secretary."

● HELSINKI Finland's Communist Party has lurched closer to a final split, with a move by its Eurocommunist majority wing to wrest local control from Stalinist hardliners (Reuters reports).

Paris to debate Noumea

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris

A full debate on New Caledonia is to be held in the French national assembly today, after a statement by M Laurent Fabius, the Prime Minister, on the present situation and the Government's policies.

M Edgard Pisani, the outgoing EEC Commissioner for Development, who has been appointed as the Government's special envoy to New Caledonia, where the Kanak separatist rebels have said that they would be prepared to enter into discussions with M Pisani on condition that the 17 Kanak "political prisoners" detained over the past fortnight, were released.

M Pisani, who has two months in which to draw up proposals for a referendum on self-determination, is understood to be working on three possible scenarios:

1. A referendum to be held in 1989, as envisaged by the new statute for the islands, in which the indigenous Kanaks and whites of French origin would be asked to vote on three possibilities: maintenance of the present devolved internal autonomy; increased autonomy, but maintaining strong ties with France; total independence.

2. A referendum to be brought forward to perhaps next year, in which whites and Kanaks would have the right to vote on a single question on the issue of independence.

3. In the event of no consensus, the possibility of a division of New Caledonia into two separately-run communities, one Kanak and the other white, both maintaining links with France.

Dr Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, who is on a seven-day official visit to France, said in Paris yesterday that he hoped that the Anglican Church, which has strong representation in the South Pacific, would be able to play a constructive role in the reconciliation of the two communities in New Caledonia.

NOUMEA: A French journalist and his companion were shot and wounded on Monday as they investigated a Kanak roadblock erected 15 miles from Noumea (Reuters reports).

Dozens of motorists had been waiting for the heavily-manned barricade at Saint-Louis to be lifted.

Russians drag heels on Barents treaty

From Ulf Andenaes, Oslo

Norway and the Soviet Union resumed negotiations here yesterday over the issue of the Continental Shelf in the Arctic, trying to decide on a dividing line between the economic zones of the two countries.

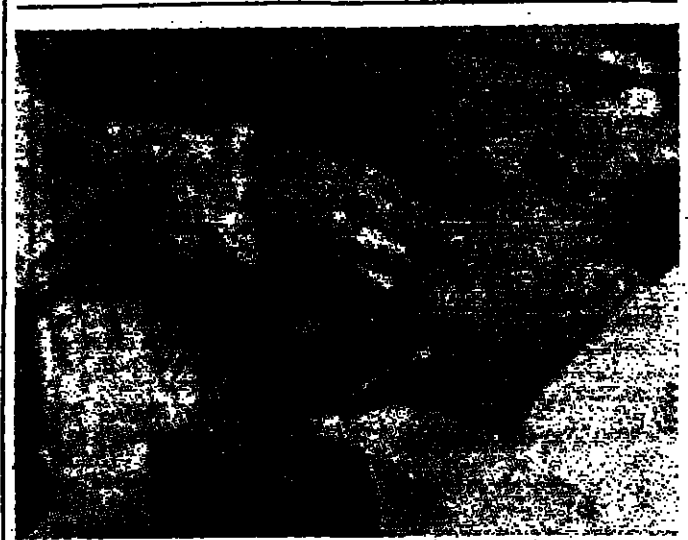
No easy deal is expected. The disputed waters consist of 60,000 square miles in the Barents Sea off the sensitive peninsula of Kola, where the Russians have a formidable military presence in the Murmansk region. The area is believed to be rich in oil resources.

Norway adheres to the

principle that the shelf should be divided by the median line between the Norwegian island of Spitsbergen and the Soviet island of Novaya Zemlya.

Moscow, however, says the division should be made according to what it calls the sector principle, from the Soviet-Norway land border in a straight line towards the North Pole. It is accepted that oil exploration should not take place until an agreement is reached.

Norway is willing to accept a compromise to eliminate the uncertainties, but the Russians appear to be in no hurry.



Hospital Communion: Mr Schroeder receiving the Sacrament in his ward at the weekend.

Mechanical heart man feeling no pain

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Mr William Schroeder said yesterday that his steel and plastic heart was pumping "just like an old-time thrashing machine".

In a television interview conducted by Dr William Devries, the surgeon who implanted the 10 ounce pump nine days ago, Mr Schroeder was cheerful and said he had no pain or discomfort.

Mr Schroeder, who is 52, was dying of heart disease before the pump was implanted. Yesterday he said his goal was to be the same as he was at 40, and he felt he could live 10 more years. "I really feel I could get out of here, go fishing and watch ball games. Before the operation I could barely make it in and out of the

house. I was getting weaker and weaker."

He was sitting up in bed in the Humana Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. His doctors said he was "ahead of schedule" and his condition has been upgraded from critical to serious.

On Sunday he spent three hours on the portable, 11.4lb compressor which is intended to give him mobility. The machine drives his pump by way of air tubes through the abdomen. Normally he is connected to a 323lb compressor.

Mr Schroeder is being watched carefully for signs of infection. Being a diabetic he is more susceptible to infection.

Asian neighbours broaden defence pact

Jakarta - Indonesia and Malaysia signed a revised security accord yesterday which for the first time encompasses the two countries' navies and air forces as well as ground troops.

The new agreement replaces a 1972 pact which was hampered out to tackle communist insurgents on the common land border in the island of Borneo.

Both the Indonesian armed forces commander, General

Benny Mardani and Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Musa Hitam, who signed the new accord in the Javanese town of Jogjakarta, said communism was now only one of the problems faced

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The Indian election

United Congress faces opposition split as 5,000 battle for seats

From Michael Hamlyn
Delhi

The Indian general election campaign began in earnest this week as more than 5,000 candidates battle for seats in the 542-member lower house of Parliament, the Lok Sabha or People's Assembly.

On the three days of polling only 513 seats will be contested: the 13 contests in Punjab and the 14 in Assam have been put off indefinitely because of the political troubles there.

One candidate has had a walkover in the single constituency in the union territory of Mizoram and Congress (I) has thus had its first victory.



Mr Chandra Shekhar: Leads Janata rump

In its first seat, the Lakshmi region of Jammu and Kashmir, polling has been postponed until June.

Polling will take place in 12 states and six union territories on December 24. Two states and two union territories will poll on December 27. Four major states will poll on both days, including the one with most seats, Uttar Pradesh. Two states, Meghalaya and Nagaland, in the far mountainous north-east, have their election on December 28.

Counting will not start before December 28.



Chowdhury Charan Singh: Former Prime Minister

The ruling party, Congress (I) (for Indira), is fighting for re-election and an overall majority over the other parties. It is the only party which will fight in every region of every state, though agreements with allies in some regions mean it will not contest about 18 constituencies.

Lok Dal: Chowdhury Charan Singh split from the Janata Government allegedly because of the Hindu nationalist slant of the Jana Sangh faction, and became Prime Minister for three weeks before Mrs Gandhi pulled the rug from under him and forced the 1980 election.

The opposition, fragmented into 38 registered parties and countless unregistered ones, has lessened its chances by failing to agree on joint candidates.

The seven parties recognized as national parties are:

Indian National Congress: The old Congress Party split a number of times after Mrs Gandhi became Prime Minister in 1967.

After her death her son Rajiv, the new Prime Minister, was unanimously elected president of the party, which won 352 seats in the 1980 election (holds 339 at present).

Janata: After Mrs Gandhi abandoned the Emergency in 1977 and called elections, the Janata (or People's) Party was put together from six main opposition groups, including former Congress members: the Socialist Party, the Jana Sangh, a pro-Hindu rightist party, and the Lok Dal, itself a combination of smaller parties with a predominantly agricultural base in the Hindi belt, led by Chowdhury Charan Singh.

The government formed by Janata proved unstable and the party split, leaving a rump consisting mainly of some former Congress "young turks" and the Socialist Party. The party president is former "young turk" Mr Chandra Shekhar. In 1980 the party, when it still contained Jana Sangh, won only 31 seats (now has 21).

Bharatiya Janata Party: After the 1980 debacle the Jana Sangh faction broke away and formed the BJP (Bharatiya simply means Indian). The party, led by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, still has the support of Hindu chauvinism in the country; the growth of pro-Hindu sentiment has considerably enhanced its electoral chances (16 seats).

Communist Party of India (Marxist): The Indian Communist Party split in 1964, with one group taking a more left-leaning pro-Chinese line while the other remained steadily pro-Soviet. The pro-Chinese group added (Marxist) to its title, and has become the dominant of the two factions. It leads the left front coalition in power in West Bengal and Tripura, and is the principal partner in Kerala's left democratic front.

The party is led by a moderate, Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, a Kerala Brahmin who was the first Communist chief minister there. In fact the party's recent success in Bengal has depended on its ability to turn itself into a strongly regional party. The Maoists have split off again, creating the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (36 seats).

Communist Party of India: The pro-Soviet stance of the CPI has led it into coalitions with the ruling Congress parties in some states, but it has at present co-ordinated all its contests with the CPI (M). The leader is Mr Rajeshwar Rao, who has resisted heavy Soviet pressure to support Congress (I) even at risk of splitting his own party (113 seats).

Divisional Court

Constable's power to detain stopped vehicle

Lodwick v Sanders
Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice Webster
[Judgment delivered November 27]

A constable who had stopped a vehicle pursuant to his power under section 159 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 and who suspected the vehicle had been stolen by the driver of it was entitled in the execution of his duty to detain and seize the vehicle and to arrest the driver, the Queen's Bench Divisional Court held, allowing an appeal by way of case stated by the prosecutor from the dismissal of an information against the defendant, Neville Buckle Sanders, that the defendant had assaulted a police constable in the execution of his duty, contrary to section 51(1) of the Police Act 1964.

Mr J. D. A. Fennell, QC and Mr Richard Latham for the prosecutor, Mr O. R. Daniel for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that two police officers saw the defendant driving an articulated motor lorry. It was not displaying a vehicle excise licence. The trailer seemed to have neither index plate nor brake lights.

The police caught the defendant to stop the lorry. Police Constable Cairns asked: "Do you own the vehicle?" The defendant replied: "Maybe, maybe not, I am in a hurry."

PC Cairns asked about the excise licence. The defendant's response was to state his name and address. As he did so he started the engine and put the lorry in gear intending to move off.

PC Cairns was understandably not satisfied with the equivocal answer he was given about ownership of the lorry the inspection of which neither he nor the other constable had completed. So he entered the cab and took possession of the ignition key to prevent the defendant driving away until all their inquiries had been made.

The defendant grabbed the constable's hand and pushed it away against the steering wheel so causing him to release the key. PC Cairns then arrested the defendant for assaulting him.

The whole incident was over in about 30 seconds. The justices concluded not only that PC Cairns had no opportunity of informing the defendant that he wished to see driving documents but also none of saying that he had formed the suspicion that the defendant was at the wheel of a stolen lorry.

The justices were of the opinion that although section 159 of the Road Traffic Act 1972 obliged a driver when required, to stop and further to remain at rest for a reasonable period and provided he would be guilty of an offence if he failed to do so, the section did not empower a police officer to do any act which was an interference with a person's liberty or property to cause that vehicle to stop or remain at rest: that although the defendant had undoubtedly committed an offence of failing to give full particulars, that was not an arrestable offence and the officer had no right to prevent him from moving off for that reason alone and the officer was not therefore acting within the execution of his duty by removing the key. Accordingly the justices dismissed the information.

One of the questions which arose was how far a police constable was entitled to go in questioning and detaining a suspect for the purpose of detecting crime and bringing an offender to justice and detaining the motor vehicle of which he was the driver.

Section 159 was to be construed as conferring a power upon a constable to require a vehicle to stop.

It was well established that the police had no general power to detain any person for questioning. A constable might ask a question of a person but he could not (a) require

that person to stop to be questioned and (b) he could not demand an answer to any question, "there were statutory exceptions to that halcyon right of the citizen."

It was a necessary inference of the existence of the power in section 159 and its conjunction with sections 161 and 162 that a driver was under a duty to keep the vehicle at a standstill while, at the very least, a constable had a reasonable opportunity of exercising his powers under those sections. Neither constable had come near to exhausting those powers as the justices' findings showed.

A driver was not, save in circumstances created by statute, obliged to answer a constable's questions but that did not entitle the driver to drive away a vehicle which a constable sought for good reason to inspect.

There was a vital distinction between a duty owed by a driver to keep his vehicle at a standstill and a power in a constable, if such existed, to detain the vehicle against the driver's will. His Lordship was in no doubt that there were circumstances in which at common law a constable had that power.

PC Cairns had unsuccessfully endeavoured to obtain the identity of the owner of the lorry. That failure made him suspect that the lorry had been stolen. There were questions unasked the answers to which could have either confirmed or allayed the constable's suspicions.

A constable acting reasonably upon a genuine inquiry into the suspected commission of crime who had required a motor vehicle to stop was entitled to take reasonable steps to detain it for such time as would enable him, if he suspected it to have been stolen, to effect an arrest and to explain to the driver the reason for the arrest.

PC Cairns acted reasonably throughout. If the justices had properly directed themselves they would have held that the constable acted lawfully. Accordingly the defendant should have been convicted and the appeal would be allowed and the case remitted to the justices with a direction to convict.

Law Report December 4 1984

Breath test machine's leap year difficulty

Slender v Boothby
Before Lord Justice Robert Goff and Mr Justice McCullough
[Judgment delivered November 27]

A Lion Intoximeter 3000 which could not recognize leap years and on February 29 1984 produced a print-out dated March 1 was not a "reliable device" on that day for the purposes of section 8(3)(b) of the Road Traffic Act 1972, as substituted in Schedule 8 to the Transport Act 1981, and accordingly a police officer was entitled on that day under section 8(1)(b) to require a person arrested on suspicion of driving with excess alcohol to provide a specimen of blood or urine for analysis.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held, dismissing an appeal by way of case stated by Mr Charles Slender against his conviction by Amphill Justices of failing, without reasonable excuse, to provide a specimen for a laboratory test when required to do so by a constable, contrary to section 8(7) of the 1972 Act.

Mr Peter Morrell for the appellant, Mr Michael Fowler for the prosecutor.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT GOFF said that the appellant was arrested on February 28, 1984 and required to provide two breath specimens under section 8(1)(a). The Intoximeter's printed statement showed that the first specimen was provided at 23.59 on Monday February 28, but the time and date of the second was shown as 00.01 on Tuesday March 1: the true date of the second specimen was February 29.

The prosecutor concluded that the device was not reliable and required the appellant to provide a specimen of blood, which he refused to do.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard & Co for Mr David Seal, Huntingdon; Southwell Dennis & Land, Wisbech.

The appellant submitted that the basic function of the Intoximeter was to provide an analysis of the amount of alcohol present in the subject's breath, in which respect it was not suggested that the machine had been unreliable.

Although the date error would have prevented the prosecutor proving the appellant's breath alcohol level under section 10(3)(a) of the 1972 Act, as substituted, it would nevertheless have been open to him to give oral evidence as to the date of the statement, and accordingly it had been argued the date error was immaterial to the device's reliability.

In his Lordship's judgment the court was not concerned with how a charge of driving with excess alcohol could have been proved. The only question for the court was whether the prosecutor had been entitled to require the appellant to provide a blood specimen, and it was therefore necessary to ask only whether a reliable device had been available at the police station.

"Reliable" meant reliable for the purpose of the Act. Parliament had clearly contemplated that the device should have the capacity to produce the correct date and time, and this device did have that capacity.

If such a machine on a particular day could not produce a correct date but produced, however predictably, an incorrect date, it was not "reliable" within the meaning of section 8(3)(b). Accordingly, the precondition to the power to require a blood sample had been fulfilled, and the appeal ought to be dismissed.

Mr Justice McCullough agreed.

Solicitors: Hooper & Fletcher, Biggleswade; Leeds Smith, Biggleswade.

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olivetti

FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Fine



On Saturday, a discreet but glittering party is being thrown at Althorp, hosted by the Countess Spencer and a collection of fine jewels. I do not suppose that anyone from Van Cleef and Arpels will be bold enough to propose a toast on the evening to the other well-known Spencer. But it is the Princess of Wales who has brought to the eyes of the London jewellers a sparkle to

match their ritzy Christmas windows. Jewellery has come back into fashion for the rich young. The Princess of Wales has led the trend from the top: from the street it has been fed by lavish splashes of paste.

The result has been a creative surge in "high" jewellery, with new directions in design and new fashions in stones. Colour makes news, with emeralds and rubies, or emeralds and sapphires, used together or in clusters of patterns. Settings look young and fresh, rather than heavy and opulent, and the important necklace is following the strapless bodices and one-shoulder gowns into fashion.

The jewellery is literally as light as air, for space plays an important part in the designs. A succulent pearl-shaped diamond hangs in a gold frame or a trembling cabochon sapphire is suspended as a pendant. Animation is allied to space, so that the gems move delicately with the body and the mounts are flexible rather than rigid.

The big money is on coloured stones. The yellow sapphire is the theme stone of Cartier's new collection. Inspired by a parure of imaginatively-mixed stones - pearls, diamonds and golden sapphire made by Louis Cartier at the beginning of the century - there are strands of twisted pearls and brilliant claspings an 87.83 carat sapphire as bright as a cat's eye. The open work gold chain, interspersed with brilliant, holds other sapphires in a gentle grip.

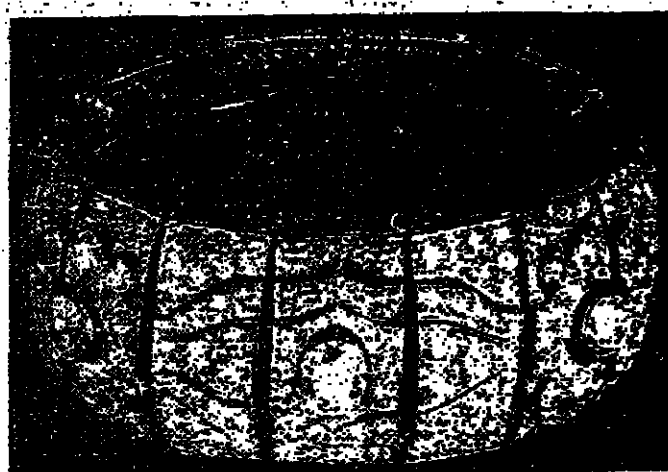
Representational designs, inspired by nature but with a

Gems in space: Cartier's important yellow sapphire set in diamonds with air around the stone and in the 100gm 18ct gold chain, £22,025. Round diamond earrings: Both by Cartier from 173 New Bond Street, W1. Raspberry cashmere roll-neck sweater in a wide selection of colours £75.50 from N. Paul, 37 Burlington Arcade, W1.



Necklace of diamonds and heart-shaped rubies set in gold, for a parure of necklace, ring, bracelet and ear clips. From Boucheron, 180 New Bond Street, W1.

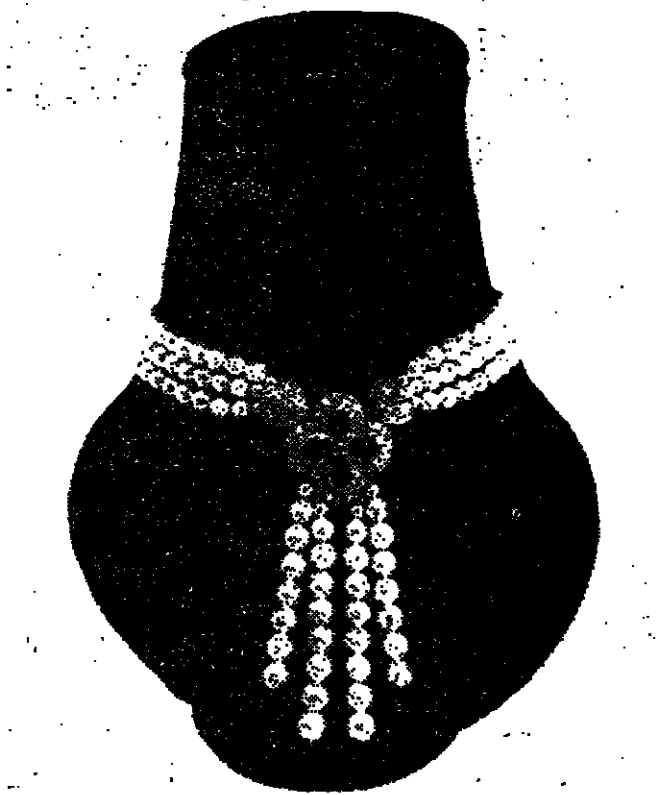
harder design edge, are also in fashion: stylized flowers, predatory animals and insects, or Edward Evans's extraordinary birds spreading colourful enamel gemset wings at Garrard. The vague for coloured stones is expressed at Garrard by recreating a Victorian idea: the first letter of each stone spells out a message. "DEAREST" reads a delicate



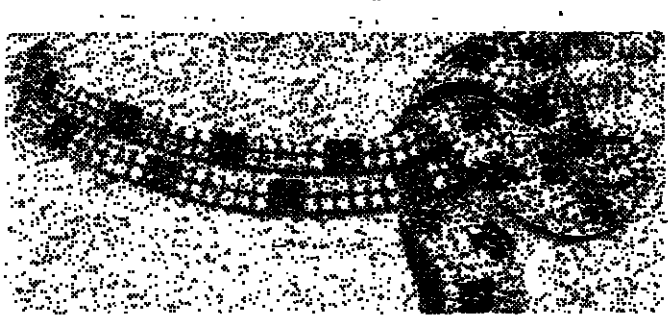
Hennell's important Art Deco diamond pavé set bracelet in platinum with bold buckle fastening. Originally made by Hennell in 1928. From Hennell, 12 New Bond Street, W1. Photograph by Mike Smallcombe.



Left: big and beautiful pear-shaped 18.38ct diamond in a necklace by David Thomas for De Beers International collection. Right: lotus leaf ring of 14mm pearl set in 18ct yellow gold and diamond from David Thomas Design, 65 Piccadilly Road, SW1.



Openwork heart-shaped cluster motif in pavé set diamonds mounted in yellow gold, set on a three-row cultured pearl necklace from Garrard, The Crown Jewellers, 112 Regent Street, W1.



Diamond nonchalance: Monsieur Gérard's scarf tie necklace in claw set diamond and ruby with pavé diamond and ruby motif. Part of a set with matching earrings and bracelet from Monsieur Gérard, 13a Grafton Street, W1.

chain bracelet set with Diamond, Emerald, Amethyst, Ruby, Emerald, Sapphire, Topaz. (Wartski have the original idea expressed in an antique French bracelet where amethyst, malachite, jacinthe, turquoise, jacinthe and emerald spell out *Amitié*.) The ultimate representational

jewellery must be Monsieur Gérard's canvas scarf ties and neck wraps made out of exquisite cabochon sapphires framed in flawless blue white diamonds or flower patterns of rubies in pavé set diamonds. The space left between the gems is again an important part of the imaginative sweeping designs.

Jewels



image from nature: Edward Evans White enamel and diamond swan necklace with diamond drop, mounted in 18ct yellow gold, £54,000. Brilliant cut earrings. Both from Garrard, The Crown Jewellers, 112 Regent Street, London W1. Black velvet deep V-back dress by Cerruti, £300 from The Beauchamp Place Shop SW3.



Cabochon sapphires set in diamond baguettes and brilliant for a necklace, ring, bracelet and earrings from Van Cleef and Arpels, 183 New Bond Street, W1.

The jewellers do not necessarily agree, but I see a definite trend towards cabochon rather than faceted stones. This is because cabochon looks much less showy, say Van Cleef and Arpels, who have strings of cabochon sapphires as well as their colourful rubies, sapphires or emeralds set in a sporty double rim necklace of gold and diamonds.

Most modern jewellers today divide their ranges into fine or "high" jewellery and the boutique collections, the latter selling from £500 to £15,000 with watches, and especially the

ubiquitous sports watch, as part of the boutique range.

But do the English, as opposed to Arabs, Americans, South Americans and Japanese, buy fine jewellery? Christopher Goodger of Hennell, whose company built its reputation on absolute discretion and impeccable service to the English upper classes, says the first time Hennell's old-established customers dusted down their best jewels was for the ball preceding the royal wedding.

Hennell, who specializes in the Art Deco period, now sell some very important pieces, including a magnificent ruby and diamond necklace made in the 1920s for Coco Chanel, and a fabulous tiara originally part of the Romanov royal collection of Russia.

Discretion is the better part of value for all jewellers. It is also easier to find collectors in England for fine antique jewellery than for the bolder modern designs (some of which are unashamedly aimed at Middle Eastern customers). Geoffrey Mun of Wartski says that customers want to identify with well-known craftsmen, but fashions also change in these names from the past. The Castellani and Giuliano revivalist jewellery that was the

subject of Wartski's recent exhibition now sells in thousands rather than the hundreds offered 10 years ago.

Designer David Thomas believes that he can sell to the English, offering them from his Piccadilly Road shop the delicate earrings and bolder rings that educate customers in good jewellery and lead them on towards finer things.

Make-up Clifford Brake for Helena Rubinstein using The Bijoux Colour Collection.

Hair by Clifford Brake for Michaeljohn. Photographs by John Swannell

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VANESSA'S DIARY

Thurs. Panic sets in at thought of Christmas catering. Last year had a bad attack of the Mrs Beetons and Did It All Myself.

Absolute disaster. My turkey was more stripped than dressed, my gammon was ghastly, and we needed a hammer for the icing on my Christmas cake. As for my game pie - Julian asked how the day pigeon got into it.

This year shall go to Fortnum's and choose from their halcyon hams and gorgeous game pies and perfect pâtés and cherished cheeses and succulent smoked salmon - not to mention pheasant and chicken and fresh farm turkey.

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THE ARTS

Galleries

Putting flesh on to oil painting

Willem de Kooning:
Painting and Sculpture
1971-83

Anthony d'Offay

Sam Francis in Britain
Warwick Arts Trust

Steven Campbell: New Paintings
Riverside Studios

"All vulgar warmth and amplitude" is an apt description of Willem de Kooning's *Women*. Not this or that woman, but every one of the many women he painted again and again throughout his career. It is paradoxical perhaps that one of the most important representatives of the American Abstract Expressionism should paint women, or indeed anything identifiable at all, but this is precisely what makes De Kooning such a rare artist. The exhibition of paintings and sculptures at Anthony d'Offay's (until January 11), although concentrating only on a short period in the artist's career, brings this well in evidence.

Having become the established leader of the new Abstract Expressionist style in 1948 with a series of black and white paintings, De Kooning proceeded to paint his first woman: big eyed, big toothed, big breasted and infinitely funny. She was both the primeval image of womanhood as well as the ordinary woman in the street. She is also included in the current exhibition, whether with the title *Woman in the Garden* of 1971 or *Untitled I* of 1983.

The latter example is unusual in more than one respect. The colour-scheme is reduced to the three primaries, red, blue and yellow, applied thinly and arranged either in large flat areas or just outlining a breast, a leg, a thigh, a high-heeled shoe,

no more. The rest is left to the imagination.

In *Garden* the colours are rich, predominantly fleshy, bringing it closer to the *Women* of the 1950s. "Flesh was the reason why oil painting was invented," De Kooning once declared, almost certainly with Rubens in his heart if not in his mind. The handling of colours is more dramatic too: splashed energetically across the canvas, they create their own random pattern, obscuring the figurative element which seems suddenly of no consequence. The painting thus acquires a new dimension, related to the biographical detail of its actual making, "action painting" it was named, and De Kooning together with Jackson Pollock were its major exponents.

In sculpture too De Kooning is an innovator. His bronzes, whether representing a *Seated Woman on a Bench*, a *Hostess* or simply just heads, reveal an almost frantic handling of the clay. The contours look fluid, as if wishing to burst out of their confines and melt, giving out the same *élan vital* as the paintings.

Less well known and a generation younger than De Kooning, Sam Francis is nonetheless considered among the most important Abstract Expressionist painters. If anything, he is more thoroughly abstract and more purely expressionist than De Kooning ever was, in the sense that he makes his colours alone speak for him. The exhibition at the Warwick Arts Trust (until December 16), although small - it consists of 11 paintings from British collections only - is comprehensive in as much as it covers a wide span in his career, between 1951 and 1974.

The earliest work in the show is the monochrome *Composition in White* of 1951, painted upon his arrival in Paris, where he was impressed by Bonnard and Matisse. Thereafter he promptly proceeded to change to brighter colours, such as the example entitled *Black and Yellow*.

Composition - Japan, painted in 1958 after a visit there, is a serene watercolour on rice paper, whose strongly asymmetri-

cal emphasis is reminiscent of the compositional schemes used in Japanese prints. In later works, such as *Dark Red Dream - Tokyo* or *Untitled L.I.*, the artist uses even stronger colours as well as new methods of employing them. What singles out Sam Francis's work above all is his total control of colour, handled with such mastery that it appears to acquire a life all its own, independent of the artist's will.

You may well ask what can a painter such as Steven Campbell and the eighteenth-century philosopher David Hume or indeed Bram Stoker's hero from *Dracula*. Professor van Helsing have in common. Not that it matters in the least as far as titles go, unless an example such as *In the Mist von Helsing gestures as the Head of Hume* (pictured right) requires additional explanation. In the context of an exhibition it certainly does.

The title itself is strange enough, but when considered in conjunction with the painting it becomes strange beyond comprehension. The painting represents a gigantic striding, grinning youth, half obscured by mist, projected across the whole height of the canvas. Several scampering wild animals, considerably smaller in scale, a tree and the faint contours of what seems the gabled roof of a cottage complete the composition.

Campbell, showing at Riverside Studios until December 30, is essentially a Romantic in that his heroes seem to commune with nature, albeit in an idiosyncratic manner. His canvases are populated by overgrown Tweedledum and Twedledee-like schoolboys, going places, doing things, although it is never quite clear where or what. There seems to be a lot of action around, yet the characters are stiff, their faces unsmiling and their gestures frozen as if caught in a game of charades.

Campbell's paintings may well be strange, absurd, funny even, grotesque. His is a deeply serious art and I believe that he is one of the most forceful and original artists to have emerged lately in Britain.

Sanda Miller



LPO/López-Cobos Festival Hall

Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* remains for me one of the most impenetrably mysterious pieces of music in the world. Not impenetrable, yet somehow intelligible, like the late piano sonatas on which Beethoven worked at the same time, but

Concerts

impenetrable and utterly unintelligible. And after Sunday night's entirely worthy and in many respects profoundly accomplished performance by the London Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra I am little wiser.

In the course of his discursive but often extremely penetrating account of the work in *Beethoven and the Voice of God*, Wilfrid Mellers has a tiny throwaway line that for Beethoven "even liturgical tradition becomes a personal apotheosis". And there, precisely, is the rub: there is something alienating about a treatment at once so vast and so personal of this most universal of texts. In those long, almost hysterical prolongations of the movements - especially the ever-regenerating final section of the Gloria and the extraordinary melting away of the Credo - one senses the composer unable to let go, unable to remain content with the limitations of human expression until his personal vision has not only suggested but has in reality attained the transcendent.

Hence, presumably, the superhuman demands Beethoven makes on his choir, which would suggest that they should have abstained from most normal activities, like speaking and moving, for a week to prepare for the ordeal. The London Philharmonic Choir have other things to do, I dare say, but they sounded splendidly confident in all but the most frighteningly exposed moments, cultivating extremes of shrieking power and soft supplication which should have galvanized the spirit.

In spite of the outstandingly fine solo contributions of Edith Wiens and Anne Sofie von Otter (John Mitchinson was the tenor, and Matthew Best a good bass), the performance failed to take wing, partly because López-Cobos' cultivated a smooth, even sound with little light or shade. Tennstedt might tear this piece apart; under López-Cobos it was unbelievably, unconvincingly rational.

Nicholas Kenyon

Labèque sisters Festival Hall

There will be two important consequences to this riotous Sunday afternoon recital. One is that Christian Aid's Ethiopian Appeal will benefit considerably from the proceeds; happily the audience was a large one. The other is that Katia and Marielle Labèque will have given the sales figures of their latest record a boost, for their programme was about as slick an advertisement for the said product as they could wish.

But the Labèques deserve their success. For one thing, they have gone to considerable trouble to unearth the original two-piano version of Gershwin's *An American in Paris*, which features on the record and was receiving its British premiere here. Their playing was full of hard-edged, even aggressive swagger, and, if at the end one found oneself missing the brassy orchestra of the final version, that was partly due to the fact that in any case Gershwin's music often sounds uncomfortably marooned

between the territories of jazz, easy listening and serious music.

Percy Grainger's *Fantasy on Porgy and Bess* also appears on the new disc, and was consequently played here too. In fact it does not amount to much of a fantasy at all, consisting merely of some rather nice arrangements of the more celebrated songs joined together in a pleasant medley without much rhyme or reason. Once more the playing was extraordinarily spectacular, and Katia Labèque's intermittent vocal emissions testified to the level of involvement.

With Bartók's own lively two-piano arrangement of seven pieces from his *Mikrokosmos* beginning the programme, the intensity of it all threatened to become rather wearing. One thus doubly welcomed the piano duet version of Ravel's suite *Ma Mère l'Oye*, for it showed the Labèques at their most sensitive and subtle, entirely at one with the composer's evocation of innocent childhood wonder.

Stephen Pettitt

London debuts Flawless marriage

The American baritone Thomas Hampson not only made a remarkable impact during his Lieder recital, but his accompanist Geoffrey Parsons seemed to enjoy his singing as much as did the highly appreciative audience.

Hampson is a flawless artist, managing a near-perfect marriage between the literary and musical content of the repertoire. Two Wolf songs were the most effective: "Abschied" was at once witty and pompous with an engaging swagger in the final bars, and Hampson dispatched "Der Rattenfänger" with a memorable combination of impishness and electricity.

Songs by Barber and Richard Strauss drew upon his serious persona; the light poetry of the latter's "Der Rosenkavalier" and super-legato of "Nights" ideally fitted the idiom and revealed the widest dramatic as well as vocal range.

The Canadian pianist Alain Lefevre has an obvious penchant for the grand gesture. Schumann's *Fantasy* benefited from his overtly emotional style, and here left-hand polyphonic details lent the score an original balance. Other works continued the "molto appassionato" vein; Alexander Bratt's *Suite* derives from Liszt and Prokofiev, and was hugely exciting, while Rachmaninov's *Second Sonata*, though powerfully played, emerged as too diffuse. Lefevre has a striking personality as well as an abundance of technique, and given maturity shows a real promise.

The approach of the Swiss pianist Hans Schmid-Wyss to Beethoven's *Sonata in A, Op 2 No 2*, seemed to exemplify the reputation of her compatriots for cleanliness and efficiency. Hers was a thoroughly reliable performance, but one in which the cantabile could have been several degrees more mellow and spacious and where her daintiness in the Scherzo seemed completely out of place. This may be an early work, but it is no polite one.

Yet this delicacy suited perfectly Schumann's *Scenes from Childhood*, a work familiar, in part at least, to most people who have learnt the piano to a modest degree, but one which is relatively seldom heard in recital. Technically it is not the most frightening music to play; yet it takes a musician of Miss Schmid-Wyss's calibre to recall those distant childish emotions with such penetrating sensitivity.

The remainder of her programme was gratifyingly adventurous, though I must admit I would not go very far to hear the music of Othmar Schoeck if the rest of his output is to be judged from the chromatic ramblings and superficial glitter of the *Consolation* and *Toccata*, Op 29. Better by far were the *Eight Preludes* of Frank Martin, pieces which ranged from Berg-like expressionism to Stravinskian brutality. Miss Schmid-Wyss obviously relished them too. Her playing here was full of fiery commitment, as indeed it had been for Smetana's terrifyingly difficult, if slightly overbearing, *Konzertfantasie*.

James

Methuen-Campbell

Stephen Pettitt

Television Tricking the body

It is very hard to watch a man who is crippled by disease take over an hour to eat his breakfast, even if the painfully-accomplished feat is edited down to a few minutes of television. Last night's *Hortons* (BBC2) was a difficult programme to watch. It was about Ivan Vaughan, a man in his forties stricken with Parkinson's disease, whose options are to endure the barely controllable shaking of his limbs or to use the drug L-Dopa, which can still the tremor but substitutes other involuntary movements.

The programme was made by Jonathan Miller, as a brief return to television after quitting the medium for medicine two years ago. He explained that Vaughan had invited him to explore his condition and the strategies he had evolved to modify it. As Parkinsonism is a disease which rarely attacks people under the age of 50, the opportunity to study it in a young and otherwise fit patient was one Dr Miller chose to accept.

Miller has a marvellous gift for humanizing his programmes; the intimidating paraphernalia of television barely dampens his spontaneity or blunts the force of his interest. Much of his role in this film was to stand beside Vaughan as he patiently tried to accomplish small physical tasks.

Vaughan's technique for controlling his rebellious limbs was a mixture of focusing and distracting his attention. "Playing grandmother's footsteps with yourself," was Miller's description. It seemed to be a kind of mental self-hypnosis which tricked the body into normal functioning. The disease began to look more and more like a disorder of the will, and the explanation that it was due to a biochemical deficiency did not accord with the evidence of Vaughan's successes.

Miller's curiosity was evidently aroused by the insight which Vaughan's temporary mastery of his disease offered into the relationship between mind and body. It was a pity that the film deliberately chose not to offer explanations or conclusions, for the viewer's curiosity was aroused in turn by the mystery of the affliction.

Celia Brayfield

Pop music

R.E.M.
Lyceum Ballroom

Of all the fine new American bands to gain recent recognition one holds out the highest hopes for R.E.M., a group who rejoice in the live experience and make themselves readily available. That they can inspire an almost feverish live passion at times is one thing; their material and attitude towards it are another. R.E.M. eschew rhetoric and let their music do the talking.

At the Lyceum, the conversation began badly. Atrocious sound on stage and no sense of occasion off it led to a communications breakdown. R.E.M. have been compared to groups from the bedrock of Americana, from the Byrds to the Band, glossy comparisons though fruitless ones. Truer to say they are as fine a bar band as ever emerged from the States - on their night.

Much energy was dissipated before the singer Michael Stipe and his three unruly companions, looking for all the world like four different versions of the character in Roger Miller's "King of the Road", took stock of what was not happening.

Having stuttered through a too-brisk opening, a more enigmatic nature was revealed on the wistful "So, Central Rain" and the macabre new "Auctioneer". Unusually, R.E.M. are not frightened to experiment with unfamiliar songs and offered the pulsating "Driver Eight", "Kenney" and "Windout" for consideration as well as old favourites like "Gardening at Night" and "9-9", examples of Stipe's more panoramic lyrics.

One contrast embraced by R.E.M. lies in the elusive qualities of their sound and the frantic dismemberment it receives. When this works, the guitarist Peter Buck is synchronizing his stagecraft to his playing, and the rhythm section of Mike Mills and Bill Berry locks tight, this Stipe is free to weave his peculiar incantations. When it fails, R.E.M. lose their seams and play too fast and loose. This was such a night, and one not saved by a quirky clutch of encore covers including Televisions' "See No Evil" and "Moonriver". Fortunately, there will be others.

Max Bell

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SPECTRUM

New statistics show a frightening increase in terrorism, particularly in Britain and on the Continent where more than half the incidents now take place. Caroline Moorehead reports that fanatics are turning to even more lethal exploits to try to draw attention to their cause

Why Europe is the target for terrorists

It is almost 14 years since the West German Marxist journalist Ulrike Meinhof interviewed Andreas Bader and Gudrun Ensslin about the fire bombing of two Frankfurt department stores, then went underground with them to form the most lethal European terrorist gang of the early seventies.

At first, their objection was only to what they called the "terrorism of things". They struck at empty buildings. In West Germany, as elsewhere, 80 per cent of all terrorist targets were objects. It wasn't until the Munich Olympics of 1972, when Palestinian terrorists shot dead 11 Israeli athletes that people became desirable as targets. Today more than half the attacks are on people.

It is worth remembering these events. They show how very recent is the phenomenon of world terrorism. They show too how quickly styles change. Today, after a murderous decade, things are once again targets. In West Germany, the Revolutionary Cells (RZ) are attacking defence buildings, computers and multinational companies in protest at what they call "psychological pollution".

Targets, methods, groups, all have their cycle: 1969 was the year of the hijacked plane (93); 1980 was the year of embassy and consulate sieges (40); 1983 was that of the car bomb (more than 500 people killed and 600 wounded).

'There are 13 per cent more dead each year'

Because it was the Americans who first spoke up most loudly about terrorism, and who remain targets in 43 per cent of world incidents; and because the Middle East has suffered from the most brutal attacks, Western Europe is often thought to be relatively uncontaminated.

This picture is quite false, as a report from the United States research group, the Rand Corporation, confirms. Since 1980 European countries have been rising inexorably in the league table of terrorism. Today more than half of all incidents take place here.

In bombings alone, France leads the table, with 126 attacks in six years, followed by West Germany (118), Turkey (105), Italy (101), Great Britain (64), Spain (61) and Greece (57).

It was only after Munich that governments began to collect and analyse terrorist data in any systematic way. What they found - 269 separate incidents that year alone - ensured future monitoring.

Today organisations like the Rand Corporation, the Jonathan Institute in America (set up after the Entebbe hijacking), and the International Relations Department of Aberdeen University under Professor Paul Wilkinson have computers endlessly sifting data.

In 1983 there were more victims than ever before - 1925, double the 1982 figure. More than half of all attacks were on diplomats. And terrorism everywhere is growing with 13 per cent more deaths each year.

Over recent years patterns have emerged in Europe. Most spectacular are the "State terrorists" - the Libyans, Ira-

nians, North Koreans and Bulgarians, who send hit squads on international man hunts. Then come the transnational terrorists, members of national and separatist organisations who also work abroad.

Now that the Palestine Liberation Organization terrorist arm has lost its Lebanon base and fallen into political and financial difficulties, its role as foremost terrorist group has been taken over by the Armenians - ASALA (the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia) and JCAG (Justice Commanders for the Armenian Genocide).

Claiming revenge for the 1915 Turkish massacre of Armenians, these groups in 1983 alone carried out attacks in Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Berlin, Istanbul, Tehran, Lisbon and Marseilles (with aborted attempts in London, Lyons, and Stockholm). Since 1975 they have killed 26 Turkish diplomats, including five ambassadors.

Equally as ruthless are two of Europe's other leading groups - the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and the Basque separatist group ETA.

ETA has spent 25 years fighting in the Basque country, which has seen 400 killed and 35 kidnapped since 1968, as well as several thousand bombs. There are also believed to be some 400 Spanish Basque terrorists based in French Basque country.

Observers think that popular support for ETA is diminishing, although both bombings and "revolutionary kidnaps" designed to raise huge ransoms - now steady at some six to nine each year - are likely to continue.

Terrorist operations in Northern Ireland by the IRA and INLA (the Irish National Liberation Army) are in fact somewhat down since their peak in 1972. That year 467 people died - a large part of the 2,345 deaths between 1969 and the end of last year. Since 1977 however the average has settled at about 94 per annum. Terrorist expert Richard Clutterbuck points out that this makes Belfast only a quarter as dangerous as Washington for its homicide rate, though possibly more perilous when it comes to kidnapping.

Small units on "active service" have regularly crossed to the English mainland. Between 1972 and 1983 more than 80 people were killed here by IRA attackers. Until the Brighton bombing in October the most dramatic incident took place last December, when a bomb went off among Christmas shoppers outside Harrods. Richard Clutterbuck estimates the IRA strength at some 300 people, based in Northern Ireland or just across the border in the Republic of Ireland.

It also claims to have links with Libya and other international terrorist organisations.

Below the IRA and ETA come the ideological groups, operating widely throughout Europe. They range from the extreme right in Italy to the most recent generation of West German terrorists, the RZ.

Unlike the Red Army Faction they seek to disrupt political life, but not transform the entire capitalist system. Their bombings are usually at night, in deserted buildings.

In the wake of movements like these have come "issue groups", small bands protesting

LONDON Tough and rapid action by police over Libyan and Iranian sieges believed to be responsible for relatively low number of terrorist attacks. None the less, the capital is highly vulnerable, both to the IRA and because it remains a centre for refugees and exiles.

July 1982 IRA bombs in Hyde Park and Regent's Park kill 11 and injure 50. Below: Slaughter in Hyde Park.

Dec 1983 Bomb explodes at Woolwich, nobody hurt. Harrods bomb kills six and injures 94.

March 1984 Two bombs planted in areas frequented by Iranian exiles injure 25 (three others defused).

April 1984 WPC Fletcher shot dead by Libyan gunman firing from Libyan People's Bureau.

October 1984 Bomb kills five at Brighton's Grand Hotel.



PARIS Currently the terrorist capital of Europe, with 25 major bombings in 1983. Main groups operating: Action Directe (anti-capitalist); Charles Martel Club (neo-fascist); CLODO (anti-computer); Bakunin Gdansk Paris (anti-defence); separatist militants from Corsica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, New Caledonia, French Guiana; ASALA and JCAG Armenian groups.

April 1983 Corsican FLNC bomb attacks on four railway stations. Air France departure terminal; suburban bank; town hall.

July 1983 Orly airport bombed by ASALA (right) - seven dead, 60 injured.

February 1984 Murder of exiled Iranian General Oveissi by the Islamic Jihad.



MADRID 400 people killed and 35 kidnapped by terrorists since 1968. Bombings of banks, multinationals and government buildings. Major terrorist threat comes from ETA and two smaller movements, GRAPO and Catalan Separatist Movement (TL).

Nov 1982 Assassination of General Victor Lago Roman by ETA Militant. Left: his funeral.

March 1983 Spanish aristocrat Diego de Prado y Colón de Carvajal kidnapped by ETA.

December 1983 Murder of Jordanian diplomat Walid Jamal Balkiz, by the Arab Revolutionary Brigade.



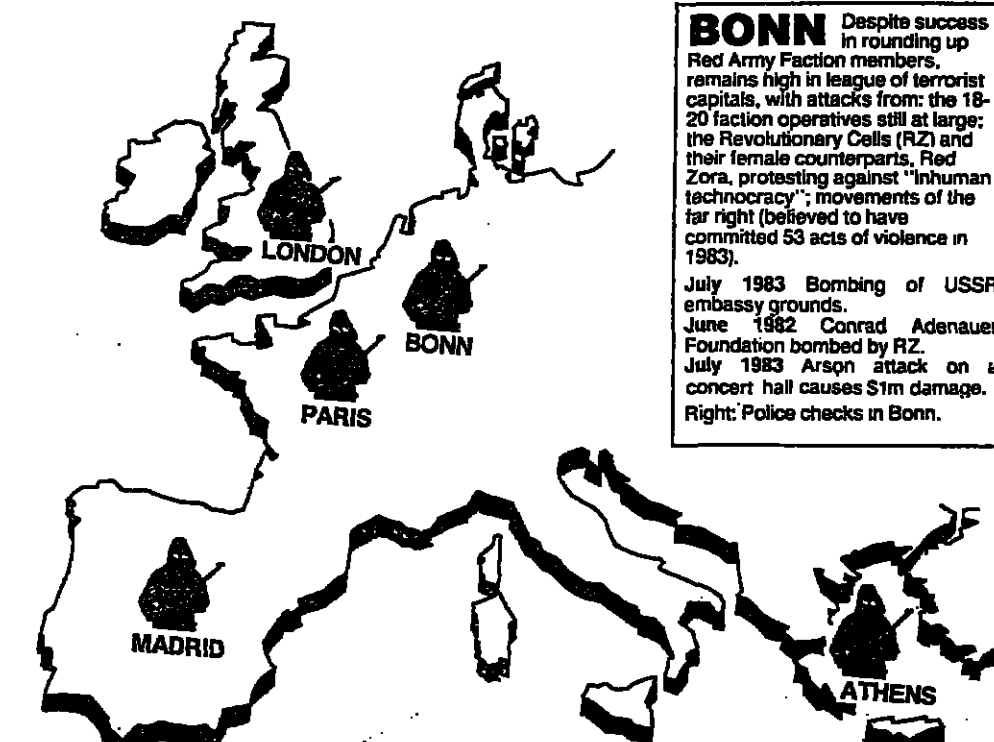
BONN Despite success in rounding up Red Army Faction members remains high in league of terrorist capitals, with attacks from the 18-20 faction operatives still at large: the Revolutionary Cells (RZ) and their female counterparts, Red Zora, protesting against "inhuman technocracy"; movements of the far right (believed to have committed 53 acts of violence in 1983).

July 1983 Bombing of USSR embassy grounds.

June 1982 Conrad Adenauer Foundation bombed by RZ.

July 1983 Arson attack on a concert hall causes \$1m damage.

Right: Police checks in Bonn.

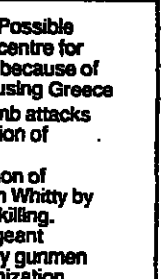


ATHENS Possible centre for future terrorist violence because of Middle Eastern groups using Greece.

February 1984 Four bomb attacks by the Yellow Organization of Airforce Officers.

March 1984 Assassination of British diplomat Kenneth Whitty by gunman. Left: Scene of killing.

April 1984 US army sergeant Robert Judd wounded by gunman of 17th November Organization.



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Secrets that keep freedom's flame burning

moreover...
Miles Kington

A man named Wilson leaned across the table to me the other day and said that I was very brave. This came as a surprise to me as I do not remember committing an act of heroism since 1967 when I announced loudly that I could not stand the Rolling Stones or Bob Dylan, and lost 30 friends in an evening.

But it transpired that he was referring to a piece I wrote recently in which I said that the Mel Brooks film, The Producers, was one of the most disappointing comedies ever made, a sentiment he heartily agreed with. Of course, this is not the sort of thing you normally say out loud, which is why I have protected this gentleman by referring to him simply as Wilson.

Anyway, Wilson went on to jeopardize his safety further by revealing that he did not care especially for the works of Stephen Sondheim, and in particular, the song called *Send In The Clowns*.

"Did you know," he said, his voice sinking to a melodramatic whisper, "that there is a secret society of producers at the BBC who are bound together solely by the common hatred of *Send In The Clowns*? I believe they meet in private now and again just to make rowdy fun of this song."

I can well believe it. Although this is supposedly the age of freedom of thought, there is in reality as much conformity as ever. I myself can take or leave Sondheim - preferably leave him - but my least favourite song of the age is that dreadful anthem of individuality known variously as *My Way*, *I Did It My Way* or *Here Comes Frank Sinatra Again*. Yet until Wilson encouraged me to be braver I should not have dreamt of mentioning it in print.

There must be many small secret societies throughout Britain keeping the flame of freedom of thought alive, thinking the unthinkable. Societies, for instance, of those who cannot stand Willie the Pooh and still shudder at the sight of honey, of those who come out of Alan Ayckbourn's comedies feeling intensely depressed, or those who would rather go to a funeral of a close relative than experience a play by Samuel Beckett.

There must be, though we do not hear about them, small societies of music lovers who think that music played on authentic instruments sounds totally wrong.

There are people - because I have sat next to them - who think that packed aeroplane meals are rather good and also people who cannot stand wholemeal bread, even though they know it is good for them. There must be people who are longing to place on their cars yellow stickers reading: "Nuclear power? Yes please!"

They dare not say so out loud because conformity rules the other way. Who would dare say, for instance, that their favourite member of the Royal Family is Princess Anne and their least favourite the Princess of Wales? Yet I have met such people.

There are other people who genuinely dislike hot sunshine and dread the arrival of summer, yet it is more than their life is worth to say so. There are people who have never heard of Torvill and Dean (unless they think they are the firm that produces cinema commercials); there are people whose favourite Welshman is Clive Jenkins, and there are even people who welcomed the demise of the steam train, mostly engine-drivers.

All these secret societies, full of people who could not stand the Goon Show, cannot see the point of the Marx Brothers, think that TV-am was at its best in its first two weeks.

There is even a secret society of people who think that nouvelle cuisine is the worst disaster since the invention of the wok. Do you belong to one of these societies? Then please do not write to me. I am having enough trouble disliking The Producers, by Mel Brooks.

But at least there I have authority on my side. When the American humorous writer S. J. Perelman was asked on one occasion if there was a difference between Woody Allen's comedy and Mel Brooks's comedy, he said: "Yeah, Woody Allen is funny".

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 512)

ACROSS

- Small pieces (6)
- Welsh emblem (4)
- Sea air (5)
- Leave launching pad (4,3)
- Unclear (3,5)
- Scheming woman (4)
- Striker (6,7)
- Track (4)
- Maestro (8)
- Fix (7)
- Eucharist plate (5)
- S Yemen capital (4)
- Withheld (6)

DOWN

- Muscle (5)
- Era (3)
- Imposed by oneself (4,9)
- Head to wind (4)
- Sexual art (7)
- Horn of plenty (10)
- Immovable spot (5,5)
- Frolic (4)
- Unruly child (4)
- Writing paper (7)
- Unfailing (5)
- Drying oven (4)
- Cooking pot (3)

SOLUTION TO No 511

ACROSS: 1 Caber 2 Rancher 3 Trays 4 Yiddish 10 Ungainly 11 Whore 13 Quadrillion 17 Ruby 18 Thirteen 21 Crackle 22 Ousel 23 Sheaths 24 Spear

DOWN: 1 Cut out 2 Shang 3 Rescinds 4 Royal Highness 5 Node 6 Hibernia 7 Reheat 12 Glorious 14 Umbrage 15 Frocks 16 Antler 19 Ensur 20 Skit

THE TIMES DIARY

Mother land

Izvestiya claims that the Soviet army deserters Igor Rykov and Oleg Khlan returned to Russia from Britain last month because they yearned for the motherland. Extracts just sent to me of an interview they gave 18 months ago to a representative of the Soviet Prisoners of War Rescue Committee in Afghanistan suggest they had every reason to stay away. Khlan believed he faced execution for shooting another soldier. "I was cleaning the gun and it went off, killing my friend accidentally. I was worried the authorities would think I had done it on purpose to escape," he said. Rykov said he wanted to make a new start in the West because his wife had written to say she was pregnant by another man. Ironically it was said to be the receipt of a photograph of this daughter from his wife which prompted "homesick" Rykov to give himself up to the Soviet Embassy.

Cracking Mirror?

How long can Neil Kinnock depend on the support of Robert Maxwell and his newspapers? The Labour leader would undoubtedly be perturbed to know that Maxwell had a hitherto unpublished meeting with David Steel at Mirror Group HQ last week. Steel went alone, without telling his parliamentary colleagues and, I'm told, hearing the message that Maxwell can no longer afford to ignore his party. Maxwell, admitting to the meeting last Tuesday morning, would only say that "mutually useful discussions took place". Maxwell, of course, faces possible expulsion from the Labour party for using Tory employment laws to evict redundant employees.

Ear ear!

Dennis Healey was not his razor-sharp self as he chaired a working group on defence and security at the weekend Ayrshire conference. A French contribution was followed by an awkward silence as the Shadow Foreign Secretary listened with puzzled concentration to a simultaneous translation on his headphones. It turned out he was tuned to a quite different discussion on cultural cooperation taking place elsewhere in Palais des Papes. "I couldn't understand what sending Claudio Abbado to Vienna had to do with European defence," he said.

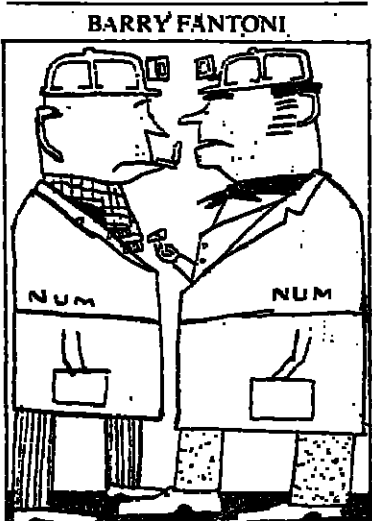
● MPs may have come up with a new snub to political journalists hoping to hear results on Thursday of a *House Magazine* poll to find the political journalist of the year. Rumour has it one of the front-runners is not just a journalist: he is an MP too.

Wrong image

After a banquet at the National Portrait Gallery this summer, Mrs Thatcher asked its director if he might borrow some dozen paintings, among them an oil of the Earl of Stockton painted by Bryan Organ in 1980. The paintings were delivered to Number 10 in October, and the Earl's portrait was given pride of place in the Prime Minister's private study. That was before Lord Stockton's maiden speech in the Lords last month with all its coded criticism. Suddenly Mrs T had second thoughts about who she wanted watching her at work. The painting was discreetly moved last week to another part of the building.

Floored

Plaid Cymru, down to two MPs and split between left and right, may now have to sell off its party headquarters in Cardiff, to make ends meet. I gather that treasurer John Dixon is preparing a report for Saturday's meeting of the national executive and that a move out of the capital and back to "the grassroots in the valleys" is on the cards. The party's financial problems are not all of its making. Four years ago its application to convert the top two floors of the three-storey HQ into lettable offices was refused by the Labour-controlled city council.



BARRY FANTONI
"Why don't we stick our assets down the pit - no one ever goes there?"

Time honoured

Jimmy Allan, British Rail's area manager in Edinburgh, has just received £10 and an anonymous note which states: "Following an autobiographical survey of my early youth my conscience urges me to send the enclosed amount to you as successors to the North British Railway for an unpaid rail journey of about 10 miles in Fife which I made somewhat dishonestly." With BR facing a £300 million bill for electrifying the London/Edinburgh line, every little helps.

PHS

Reform — not abolition

by Reg Freeson

the Lords, losing the arguments, if not the votes, in the Commons.

Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, has said: "We need to win over staff affected by abolition — or it will be delayed by lack of cooperation." (*Local Government Chronicle*, July 6, 1984). Given that he has neither won over staff nor obtained cooperation, we have a recipe for chaos in April, 1986.

It is not too late. Within two years, the quangos, joint boards and committees could and should be brought under coherent democratic city government.

The Government's Bill should provide for the necessary review and machinery to this end. A commission on the future of metropolitan government should be provided for with all-party support. Its remit: the creation of new and more effective elected authorities — to concentrate on structure planning, transport planning, urban renewal, coordination of complementary functions and services and applied research.

Such bodies could be smaller than at present (perhaps single representatives from each borough) and would not have the general powers of other local authorities.

There should be a major overhaul of the ill-coordinated shambling machinery which has characterized County Hall for 20 years. Committees and departments could be

limited in number according to their major statutory functions. Borough and district authorities might have rights of elective representation.

The commission should report within one year and there should be a commitment by all parties to legislate promptly on the basis of its report.

The commission should thereafter have a continuing role in the future of metropolitan government, overseen by a select committee. Its remit should cover boundaries for metropolitan areas and the districts within them, departmental machinery and committee structure (county and district) with an eye to better coordination of services, development of neighbourhood management and elected neighbourhood/urban parish councils. It should review the machinery of Whitehall departments in relation to local government tasks and functions and make recommendations.

Both Government and Opposition parties should reflect while Parliament engages in the battle about the Bill. There will be no going back on this fight, of course. But whatever changes might be sought, with the Government's huge majority, the GLC and metropolitan counties are bound to be abolished.

For the sake of the body politic, healthy democratic politics and effective renewal and good city management, basic common ground for the future must be struck between the parties.

The author is Labour MP for Brent East.

With the breakthrough in talks over Cyprus, Nicos Devletoglou outlines the suspicions held against Costas Karamanlis

Time to reopen the old Cyprus file

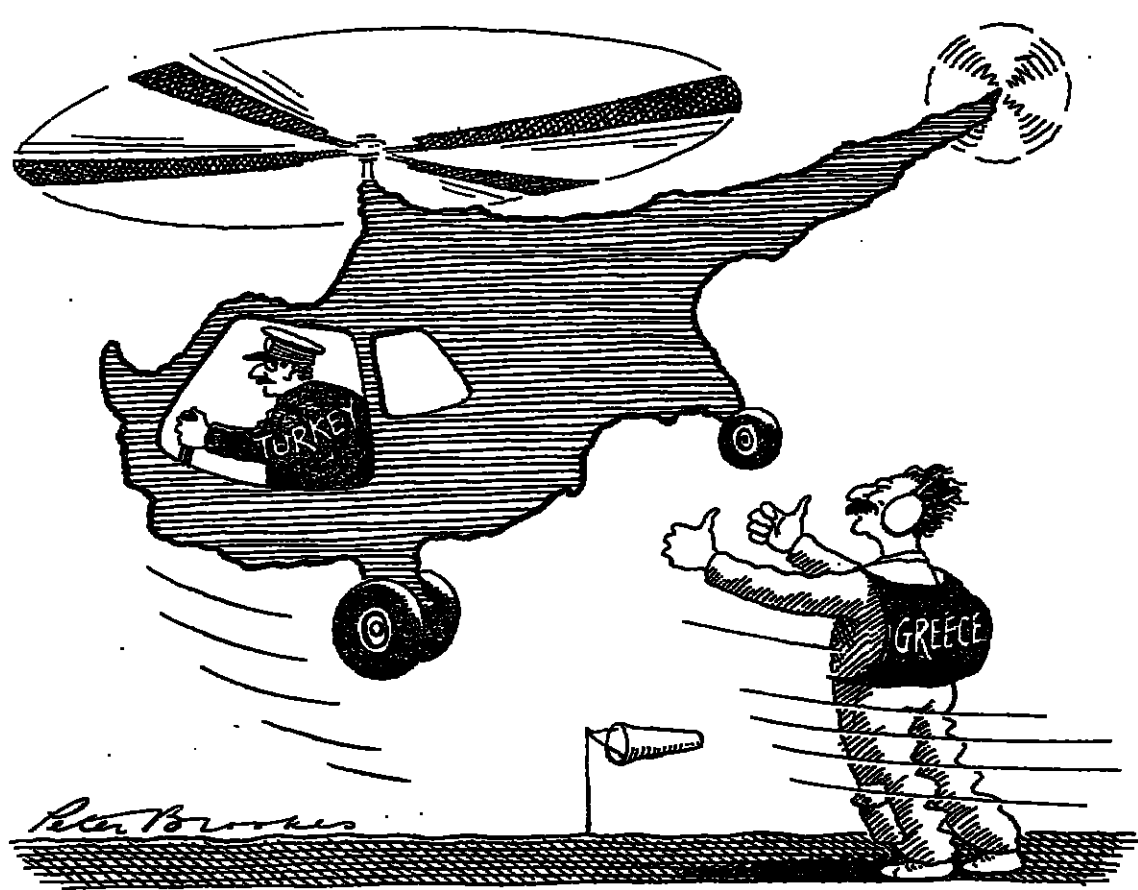
The massive advances of the left in Greece and the characteristic mis-handling of the Cyprus issue by successive Greek governments are neither a sudden nor a new phenomenon. The process goes back to before the general election of October 1981, which saw the unprecedented collapse of the right.

It all began with the refusal of Mr Costas Karamanlis to open the so-called Cyprus File and hold a public inquiry into the Cyprus disaster of 1974. Despite the opposition's demand in parliament at the time that the facts be put before the people, the then Greek premier declared it "irrevocably closed". Soon after he came to power in July. Yet only in May 1974, news had reached Greece, confirmed by Nato intelligence sources, of a secret meeting between Karamanlis and the Turkish premier Mr Ecevit at Marne, just outside Paris.

The majority of people in Greece wanted then — as they do today — to know what a well-known ex-premier could have possibly had to say to Mr Ecevit, in secret, only weeks before the Turkish invasion in Cyprus and the collapse of the military governments. If, as some insist, no such meeting took place, a public inquiry would have been the proper medium to put the facts responsibly before the people.

In the absence of an inquiry the conspiracy allegation remains

In the absence of an inquiry the principal allegation remains that Mr Karamanlis and other leading political figures, who subsequently formed the New Democracy Party, were involved in a conspiracy which led to the Turkish invasion, the consequent fall of the military government and the election to power of Mr Karamanlis and his party. If it indeed happened it must be one of the most serious conspiracies of modern history: the military government fell in the way anticipated, the New Democracy Party swept into office with an overall majority, remained in power for seven years — and its leader and founder, now an old man of 77, even became president.



The allegations have gained some credibility because they make sense of events which have both shocked and disappointed many Greeks and which otherwise lack a convincing explanation. Specifically, they clarify the curious behaviour of the New Democracy Party, both in office and since October 1981, when it lost power to the left-wing Panhellenic Socialist Movement led by Andreas Papandreu.

While in office, the New Democracy Party — presumed to be conservative, traditionalist and pro-free enterprise — behaved in such a way as to make the famous U-turn of Mr Edward Heath look like a mundane compromise. Year after year it conducted affairs of state as if it were somehow bound by mysterious and invisible fetters which threw it off course and prevented it from carrying out its natural and most important election pledges.

Coming to power in the bitter aftermath of the Turkish invasion, an event which had revealed the weakness of the military government in Greece, Mr Karamanlis was universally expected to take decisive action against Turkey. He did nothing. Although nominally pro-western, he took Greece out of Nato in protest at the indifference displayed by the West towards the Cyprus issue.

As a result this failure the Turkish Cypriots, who represent 18 per cent of the population, now possess 40 per cent of the island and the Turkish presence remains. The enforced partition has produced all

kinds of economic and other absurdities: nearly 200,000 Greek Cypriots are still prevented from returning to their homes, a Turkish Cypriot "state" has been declared and little pressure has been applied to make the Turks pay reparations for the extensive war damage caused. Karamanlis — and the Papandreu government thereafter — have done little to counter the increasing demands of the Turks both in Cyprus and elsewhere in the Aegean.

But, of course, if the allegations are correct, how could they have taken firm measures to punish the Turks for the invasion?

A conspiracy of the kind alleged would also explain, in a slightly less obvious way, why successive Karamanlis governments failed to live up to expectations in the economic sphere and why more recently the New Democracy Party has behaved so feebly in opposing Mr Papandreu's brand of radical socialism.

A political group — or administration — that has been party to a conspiracy is obviously inhibited from taking radical action, being at the mercy of those who know the truth. Indeed, a government or a party which constantly fears exposure has an interest in keeping the political temperature down. This would explain the New Democracy Party's dull, lacklustre performance in government and its half-hearted responses to the most controversial actions of the Papandreu government. It remains to be seen to what extent the newly elected leader, Mr Costas Mitsotakis, can effectively re-

orient and revitalize the party in time for the next general elections.

Although it is commonly accepted that Andreas Papandreu took no part in the alleged conspiracy, and was initially unaware of its existence, there can be no doubt that he is conscious of the explosive nature of the matter. He naturally has access to information denied to the ordinary citizen, and has occasionally referred to the subject. Until very recently Mr Papandreu was pledged to introduce in parliament a public inquiry on the Cyprus File.

A party which fears exposure is inhibited about radical action

It is not in Mr Papandreu's interest to focus the searchlight of public inquiry on the subject. If the conspiracy happened, then his main political opponents are rendered impotent and are bound to remain so. If it didn't happen, it is in Papandreu's best interest to allow the growing speculation to feed on itself. And so it will — unless, of course, the New Democracy Party under its new leader breaks loose from its Karamanlis fetters, and, free from the mistakes of the past, takes the initiative.

The author was Professor of Political Economy at the University of Athens until 1975, and is a co-founder of the National Union Party.

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A nation remembers its lines

Roger Boyes finds Poland's underground poets leading the people's protest towards spiritual and temporal freedom

Warsaw
You are free, says the warder
and, this time, the iron gates close
behind me.

For almost three years the men in power in Poland have been parading the word "solidarity". Ugly as a lizard, the word has been transcribed from the Czechs but what it really means is "forgetting": forget Solidarity, forget the emotions, the leaders, forget that life was, and still could be, lived differently. Solidarity was a hiccup in history.

As after other failed Polish uprisings, it is the poets who have to resist the state-induced amnesia and overcome the shock, shame and withdrawal which followed the declaration of martial law. Gradually a body of poetry has emerged that might legitimately be called the poetry of protest: it peddles the images of arrest, internment and interrogation but its issues are larger. Above all the poets — one could name Ryszard Krynicki, Anka Kowalska, Wiktor Woroszyński, Zbigniew Herbert — want to assert the primacy of moral values over politics. A tradition that runs back at least a century, to the emotional work of Cyprian Norwid, it is now supported by a huge infrastructure of opposition, refined and expanded in the boom days of Solidarity.

The major poets of protest are part of the 1968 generation. Stanislaw Baranczak, Adam Zagayewski — now in the West — and Krynicki, were reacting to the debasement of language by politics and describing with freshness the period of the student protests in March 1968. This generation found a common cause with the short-lived publication of a magazine called *Student* and its supplement *Young Culture*. Film-makers like Feliks Falk and Agnieszka Holland, encouraged by the older Andrzej Wajda, the performers of the Theatre of the Eighth Day in Poznan, the graphic artists of Cracow — all felt, with the poets, that their art could help them to recast politics in an ethical mould.

The years of nervous government that helped create a springboard for Solidarity and the self-doubt of the Communist Party, concealed by armour of martial law, became all too obvious to the poets of protest, Krynicki writes:

The people in power are afraid of heights:
The higher they climb
The more they fear returning to earth.

Down to earth, the poets wait for the return of Poland's leaders. In the first anthology of martial law poetry Leszek Szaruga, a poet himself, writes that "every generation of Poles has to go through our historical routine: conspiracy, uprising, war. From this cultural experience stems the idea of the romantic hero — not an individual as in the nineteenth century but now a whole society".

Religious symbols and allusions pepper the poetry of protest, because as Szaruga writes, "God has become the supreme court of appeal". After the moment of hope represented by Solidarity, martial law "obliterated the sense and meaning that human lives had begun to acquire in Poland... the only belief that remained was the deeper, prehistorical, spiritual one".

The central question then is how to salvage victory from defeat. The answer is by embracing personal codes of values that can outlast and transcend those imposed by politicians. The poets are not exclusively concerned with the Polish lot: they want to nudge others, especially in the West, about the dangers of totalitarianism.

The poets survive as best they can. Some translate, for the underground or for the underground, some teach. The underground runs a network of clandestine lectures for workers and the lecturers can often be well rewarded. Workers submit their applications to study to the Solidarity organisers who find teachers and work out a curriculum. An underground course of modern Polish poetry might well get 10 classes of about 20 workers: the students contribute to the lecturer's fee.

Survival would be easier if they were more confident that their cause was not completely forgotten by the West. In one of her series of poems, *Smuggled Letters*, Anka Kowalska, a former member of the Kor dissident group, wrote a year after martial law:

Dear friends,
So nothing happened really —
A small row in the family.
The whole world sighs, relieved

Phillip Whitehead

The other victims of pit violence

"There you are", Sir George Sitwell said to the young Evelyn Waugh as they strolled on the terrace at Renishaw, "you see, there's no one between us and the Locker-Lampsons." For him the mines and steelworks between were hidden. "Only the heights were golden."

This year the men and women of Renishaw and a hundred similar spots have forced their way into the consciousness of those who long overlooked them.

The striking miners are not the deluded cannon fodder depicted in the media. They want to see their own side negotiating again, and the NCB brought to the table to do it. They don't like violence, and they say so more readily than their president. They don't like the other face of violence either: the violence of language and the violence of the state directed against them. It increases their bitterness and their determination. That is why they still have the will to win, and will stay out to do it.

We seem to forget in this country that we are members of the same body politic. Do our rulers realize what the Prime Minister's speech at the Carlton Club, rabid with class war, looked like when viewed in a miner's household? We all see the same television, but it is not reflecting back to us shared images of ourselves. Equally, Mrs Thatcher's tone and language in reacting to the appalling death of David Wilkie seemed to come perilously close to linking every striker with that single act.

The death of David Wilkie was a dreadful thing, unanimously condemned as such. So is each and every act of wanton violence in this dispute. Anyone who tries to minimize its consequences debases his or her cause.

The consequences will be felt for a generation, not just in broken bones but in fractured communities. The violence goes both ways, however, and only one is fully reported. Those who suffer from it, and are ignored, become hardened against a sense of what it is doing to others if condemnation is a one-way conduit. One example must suffice. Consider the case of Mr Ernest Cusworth, a school cleaner who lives in Brampton Bierlow, South Yorkshire, on a council estate just up the road from Cortonwood Colliery. I visited him last week, on the day when every newspaper had front-page coverage of the savage attack on working miner Michael Fletcher.

A fortnight before there had been an equally disgraceful attack on Mr Cusworth. He has nothing to do with the pit, nor the picket lines. He has a simple job, which he enjoys, and the worn look which comes to men in their fifties who have known 35 years of manual work. He seems older and frailer than his 54 years. Just now he looks 20 years older.

The author was Labour MP for Derby North, 1970-83.

On Monday November 12 Mr Cusworth rose early for work. He was still in his own garden when he was hailed from the gate by two men in riot gear who ran up. He went to speak to them, and was hauled bodily over the fence and beaten senseless. Then, with a broken collar bone and multiple bruising, he was flung into a police van and taken to the police station, accused of being a petrol bomber. Mr Cusworth was released that afternoon for medical attention, on condition that he did not press charges.

The alleged assailants of Michael Fletcher were rounded up within hours. At the moment of writing the assailants of Ernest Cusworth are not yet known or charged. His little house is full of Get Well cards from the pub, from the pet shop, from strangers who saw the few reports of the attack on him. No doubt he'll recover, but he will never be able to look at a police uniform again with equanimity. Nor will his neighbours.

His local MP, Peter Hardy, is fighting his case tenaciously. He gets many like it. In the clubs and shops of Brampton Bierlow, as you look out across a landscape that counts half a dozen collieries, the talk is bitter from teachers and magistrates as well as the pickets at the mine. What do these people make of a Home Secretary who appears to justify all police activity, a Prime Minister who seems prepared to turn each mine into an industrial Masada? In this adversity they close ranks against the Government, against the press, against those NUM members — and there are some — who have gone back to work earlier in protest at their executive's tactics.

They may not know how much they have won, not least in busting the reputation of Ian MacGregor. But they know much they stand to lose, if they are defeated by a Government which seems to regard them as the equivalent of shivering Argentinian conscripts on Mount Tumbledown. It took Harold Macmillan to remember that they are something else, men of England, heirs to glory, as much as any member of the present Cabinet.

To link these people with the violence of the few, or their cause with that of terrorists and saboteurs, will not budge them. If you use that rhetoric, you may end up with that reality: Belfast come to Bolsover. This strike will have cost the country more than the Falklands War, that fount of false analogies. It could still be settled within weeks, if courage and conviction were respected rather than reviled, and negotiations reopened. The message should go back to the golden heights: you cannot have both a mining industry and the unconditional surrender of the miners.

The author was Labour MP for Derby North, 1970-83.

Roger Scruton

Punish the real school bullies

A naive observer might suppose that the campaign for "anti-racism" education is an example of the British political process at work, doing its best to overcome social evils before they get out of hand. It is worth rehearsing some of the facts.

A prime mover of the view that British schools are intrinsically racist was the black schoolteacher Bernard Coard, who published in 1971 a pamphlet entitled *How the West Indian Child is Made Educationally Subnormal in the British School System*. Coard, a revolutionary Marxist, was subsequently adviser to the ILEA, in which role he did much to propagate the view that the structure of school education must be overturned. "White racism" was to be eliminated. Coard is now in prison in Grenada, accused of conspiring to murder Maurice Bishop.

Coard had the enthusiastic support of the radical educationist establishment, and in particular of Professor Chris Mullard, whose inflammatory utterances have already featured in this column. The lobby which such activists created has been extremely effective, as anybody can see from the guidelines and pamphlets now regularly issued by local authorities.

It is perhaps inevitable that the ILEA, given to advanced buffoonery of every kind, should be at the vanguard of this propaganda war.

But it is not alone, as the Brent education committee reveals: "The white ethnocentric curriculum suggests that white British culture and people are superior to those who are not white. The white ethnocentric school teaches racism to its pupils." "All whites are racists", adds the ILEA in a recent discussion paper.

The source of such attitudes is not concern for fairness and honesty, which is the fundamental premise of a true political process, but venomous hostility, contempt for facts, and the self-intoxicated longing for enemies that characterize the revolutionary consciousness. Berkshire County Council's education committee's "adviser" on multicultural education, Robin Richardson, gives the following exhortation to teachers:

"There are objective conflicts of interest between white and black, North and South, ruler and worker, male and female, oppressor and oppressed. You cannot avoid taking sides. Any attempt to be neutral, even-handed, objective, will promote the interests of the stronger, of the oppressor. This is because there is no such thing as final objectivity, there is only unending struggle. Your commitment should be to justice, not to truth."

And he goes on to add that "your pupils are to engage in war and

revolution, yes, but not as cannon-fodder, with yourself as armchair strategist."

Like Richardson and Mullard, the activists are now firmly entrenched, not in schools, but in the more influential positions from which schools might be threatened and controlled. Their vitriolic language is fast becoming the official rhetoric of the educational establishment.

Teachers, headmasters, and many education officers are aware of the situation: they know the extent of the untruths put about by the "anti-racism" lobby, and they know too that the leaders of this lobby are concerned to produce not racial harmony, but division, uproar, and hatred of the white majority. Many of their pronouncements are frankly racist in tone, and some are moderated by that tolerant sensitivity to the complexity of things which would entitle them to the authority that they claim.

Moreover, as the case of Mr Honeyford illustrates, they have ways of silencing those teachers brave enough to question them. Mr Honeyford's school was made the subject of an inquiry calculated to cause maximal inconvenience to the victim, not because of a complaint about his competence, academic record, or professional conduct, but because he had written an article criticizing the indefensible bigotry of the anti-racist.

We just have to believe that ethnic minority children are underprivileged in our schools (despite the enormous privileges offered to Asians, which extend as far as ritual slaughter of the animals eaten at meals — a practice deeply repugnant to the majority conscience). We just have to believe that the ethnic minorities have a right to an ethnocentric education of their own, and also that white children have no such right.

In order that these falsehoods should remain undisturbed, Mr Honeyford has been commanded to silence by his local authority. He is not to publish on the subject, and is therefore deprived of the only weapon whereby his career might be defended and his cause upheld.

If the totalitarian elite is successful in silencing him, then it will be a dark day for British politics. While the members of this elite continue to utter seditious and violent denunciations of our institutions, their opponents hesitate to utter even the faintest truth, for fear of being branded "racist". One thing alone can permit a return to reason. Bradford Council's education committee must be disciplined for its arrogant assumption of a right of censorship, so that the anti-racist lobby may be shown up for what it is, without fear of reprisal.

The author is editor of the Salisbury Review.



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NOT BY WHIPS ALONE

The decision to raise the cash contribution of middle-class parents to their student offspring has proved sensitive on the Conservative back benches. Today - with one half of his Parliamentary party publicly against him and much of the other half hammering him in private - Sir Keith Joseph has to face his Education Committee. Whatever the outcome, fight or fudge, he will not enjoy it very much.

While Sir Keith tries to rescue himself, others are trying to rescue the Government from the wider effects of this latest political embarrassment. As student grants follow foreign aid and civil aviation, journalists are being lectured on the inevitability of "this sort of thing happening" when the Parliamentary majority is large and the prospects for personal promotion slight. It is argued, rightly, that there is a benefit for the democratic process when recent opposition from the Government benches fills the Parliamentary ground evacuated by an official Opposition paralysed by Mr Scargill.

Yet the Government should be careful of this approach. Mr Francis Pym has been proved correct in his pre-election comment about the danger of a large majority. But the true implications of his prophecy remain neglected.

For too long the Government has lived on its Whips. Currently the Whips' office - headed by Mr John Cope while Mr John Wakeham continues his recovery from the Brighton bomb - is recognized to be one of the best

the post-war party has had. But there is a limit to its ability to control restless MPs whose personal political disappointments are matched by dissatisfaction with the performance of ministers who have been given advancement over them.

The senior back-bench "wets" have not made their critique of Government policy any more cogent and they may still be uncoordinated in their attacks. They are, however, unmissable in the Westminster corridors while the Government's committed supporters are much easier to miss - all the more so in the absence of Mr Tebbit and Mr Wakeham.

No one should think that this year has been one of bad management by the Whips. If anything there has been too much Party discipline and too little self-confident persuasion from the centre of Government to its outer circles. The election of Mr Cranley Onslow to replace the increasingly distant Mr du Cann at the head of the 1922 Committee may play a part in improving communications from the outside to the centre.

But the Prime Minister's second-term Parliamentary Private Secretary, Mr Michael Allison, has not yet managed to emulate Mr Ian Gow's successful communications in the opposite direction.

Mrs Thatcher has to treat her Parliamentary Party with caution, if not respect. She may think that she has only a few dozen MPs and advisers who stand four-square with her views. But she is not the first Prime Minister to be in that position. Nor will she be the last.

She should simply use her personal forces to better effect. She should be more ready to take up the dialogue with her own opposition. She should properly engage the views of those who might otherwise see themselves as lobby fodder. It is inauspicious that the 1979 intake of MPs - most of them chosen under the leadership of her predecessor - seem to understand her better than the 1983 entrants, chosen more in her own political image.

There will be more vigorous exchanges between the Tory Government and its back-benchers. At their best these provide the only real political debate in Britain. But for dull thinking, distasteful staidism and self-interest, there is no fury like that of a Tory back-bencher spurred. The Government should not keep its supporters in a state where they rise at their most rampant to protect the student middle-class. If it continues to do so, every mistake is a minefield - and what does the Prime Minister then do with professional detestations like Sir Keith Joseph?

Some friends of the Government will continue to see the student grants issue as a storm in a teacup - as safe, wearisome and predictable an event as the cliché they use to describe it. But it can be seen as such only by those who want the Government machine to be in no position to fight the real battles ahead. And there are many such battles, whose existence and importance have been masked by the miners' strike. It will take more than a good whips' office to win them.

SETTING THE PACE IN HONG KONG

The Commons will debate the Anglo-Chinese draft agreement on Hong Kong tomorrow and will almost certainly endorse it. The vast majority of local people have made clear they would prefer some kind of agreement to having none at all, and this is the only one there is. Moreover the Hong Kong community has eased the task for MPs by indicating in opinion polls and last week's official Assessment White Paper that they find its terms acceptable.

This is not however to dismiss or diminish the worries which remain. These include, among many others, questions of nationality, land ownership, defence and above all, human rights. Some of these need only clarification, bearing in mind that the draft, though more detailed than many had feared likely, is still only the matrix within which a whole new set of relationships must develop. Others will be more difficult. There already exist in Hong Kong regulations which could be used to curb freedom of the Press given a less tolerant regime than the present one. Can one really see Hong Kong's liberal Press being allowed in 1997 to conduct a campaign against, say, maladministration in Peking?

A forum for addressing such concerns will exist in the Anglo-Chinese Joint Liaison Group which will be set up next year after ratification of the agreement. At one time dreaded by Hong Kong people as a means by which the People's Republic would interfere in the colony's affairs sooner rather than later,

the Group now looks like becoming an essential means of communication in the transfer of power.

But this will still leave parliament with an important responsibility. Unofficial members of Hong Kong's executive and legislative councils (Umelco) - in effect the colony's MPs - are demanding local participation in the Group. But they will still need from time to time the support of Westminster as well as Whitehall, if they are to stand any chance of allaying the fears of Hong Kong people - fears which Umelco are explaining to the Government and all major parties in London this week.

Guarantees for the territory after 1997 will remain blurred at the edges at least until Peking has drafted the new Basic Law - a process which is expected to continue for most of the 1980s. But both the full Commons and its Select Committee on Foreign Affairs must meanwhile keep closely in touch with the colony's fears and aspirations and the Government should be generous in allocating parliamentary time.

We must be similarly generous too towards those who, both before and after 1997, cannot face life under Communist rule - however benevolent. Only 20,000 people in Hong Kong have automatic right of abode in this country while many of the two million more with British Dependent Territory citizenship are now seeking similar bolt-holes, if not here then in countries like Canada and Australia. But there are many who

cannot afford this kind of insurance against things going badly wrong in post-Deng China. Even though Britain is in no position to open its doors to such numbers we will have to be prepared to treat such an emergency, if it happens, with particular humanity and urgency.

The White Paper on representative government in the colony took a cautious step forward by providing for indirect elections for 24 unofficial members of the Legislative Council next year. This careful measured pace of change satisfies most of the local electorate. But the pace must surely accelerate if a generation of political leaders is to emerge in time to take over from Britain in 13 years. If not, Peking will do it for them and the acceleration could then be quite dramatic.

Psychologically Britain and Hong Kong should look upon 1997 as a consummation devoutly to be wished, not as a chimera to be wished away. Relations between the territory and China - now its second biggest trading partner - are burgeoning, and will continue to do so for at least as long as Peking needs this tiny capitalist enclave on its door-step. But China is also potentially the world's biggest single market and the opportunities for Hong Kong industry - and British industry too - should not be lightly regarded. In that sense the 1997 date should not be regarded as a deadline, but only as one further point in a continuous process of adjustment which has already started.

Public spending

From Mr Peter Hordern, MP for Horsham (Conservative). Sir, It seems to me that you (leaders, November 8) and Mr Plowden (letter, November 15) are right, and Mr Shapiro (November 26) wrong, about controlling public expenditure. It is a messy process at present, for two reasons. I think:

First, there is no overall view of Government expenditure to see whether the functions of Government departments are necessary or to assess their relative importance one to another, nor whether what they do could not better be done by tax incentives. Regional grants are an obvious example.

This week we shall learn the results of yet another departmental review of regional grants from within the Department of Industry. There is no machinery to consider whether the abolition of employer's national insurance contributions in the regions might serve employment better than regional grants, nor any possibility that the Department of Industry might propose that regional grants be dropped.

What is required, I think, is a Cabinet committee, served by a small office, to consider all Government expenditure and its value to society, both absolutely and relatively, between one department and another. Such a Cabinet committee would consider expenditure and recommend priorities, which could then be discussed and agreed by the Cabinet as a whole. And, I think, published.

That process would help to avoid government by shock, such as the increase in student contributions just announced. And the second reform would be to publish both the public expenditure and the financial statement at the same time, say in February,

when the Budget could be presented. Then it would be far easier, and better, to debate whether tax relief or expenditure should be preferred. Debate about public expenditure will always be raucous; but it also must be informed.

PETER HORDERN, House of Commons, November 27.

Information technology

From Dr Thomas G. Whiston. Sir, I have sympathy with John Burnett's argument (November 21) that the proposed £10m industrial sponsorship for the proposed Institute of Information Technology should not detract from, and indeed be seen in the context of the dire need existing in present centres of excellence in British universities; nevertheless I would suggest that a more urgent requirement needs to be considered.

As noted by John Ashworth (Chairman, IT Economic Development Committee) the level of UK trade imbalance in relation to IT commodities may be in excess of £2bn - and the future suggests much worse.

In such a context (and without rehearsing here the seminal and wide-ranging influences that IT will/might/should have upon UK industrial performance) it seems reasonable to argue for funding commitment at the level of hundreds of millions rather than the more modest allocations referred to.

Of course, a programme is of immense potential importance, as is its twin or dual-funding strategy which seeks and encourages industrial and academic partnership. Nevertheless, some might argue that even that is pump-priming when seen in relationship to the Japanese and USA programmes.

What the real focus of discussion should therefore include is how to raise (significantly - or by order of magnitude?) the level of resource allocation, and equally importantly, careful examination of the best means of distribution/allocation of such funds. Where it is self-evident that there is a large shortfall in skills and appropriate manpower resource then that should in itself become the most urgent priority, but seen against a much greater scale of commitment.

In an international setting I would make two further points: first, at present there is much discussion of Britain's level of overseas aid to Third World countries and fears of its erosion. If the UK does not get its IT industrial, commercial and manufacturing base right then there will be precious little to redistribute. Second (and more fundamentally) the majority of Third World countries - and many OECD nations - have suffered tremendously from the deficits and trade imbalances ensuing from Opec (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries); a second and much more structural imbalance is just around the corner with respect to IT.

In such a context unless Britain - and Europe - achieve a much greater presence and adequate performance in this area, unless subsequent trade balances are restored, much global misery awaits. This can, of course, be discussed in several contexts: the "North", the "South" and globally. IIT, Alvey and university new-blood schemes remain only as stepping stones.

Yours faithfully, THOMAS G. WHISTON, University of Sussex, Science Policy Research Unit, Mantell Building, Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex.

Case for silence on infant deaths?

From the President and the Hon Secretary of the British Paediatric Association.

Sir, We have read - we could hardly avoid reading - the well-publicized views of Dr Wayne. Even if he were right - and we believe him to be wrong - we feel that he should not have expressed his views publicly. There is much to be said for the old-fashioned virtue of reticence, unpopular though it is today.

Paediatricians have always been aware of the existence of infanticide. There is no means of distinguishing between accidental and non-accidental suffocation at post-mortem examination. But ordinary clinical experience suggests that even a suspicion of responsibility is rare in the parents of infants who die unexpectedly.

To saddle the great majority of innocent bereaved parents with the suspicion of responsibility is to add insult to tragic injury. The cause of the great majority of sudden unexpected deaths in infancy has yet to be determined.

Yours etc, PETER TIZARD, President, TIMOTHY L. CHAMBERS, Hon Secretary, British Paediatric Association, 23 Queen Square, WCI, November 29.

Point of departure

From Mr Joe Haines.

Sir, In your leading article today (December 1) about former prime ministers you say: "The facts underlying the resignation of Lord Wilson of Rievaulx remain an enigma to this day."

Fact. Had Labour won the general election of June 18, 1970, it was Mr Wilson's intention to stand down after two years.

Fact. On March 1, 1974, when it was clear he would be returning to Downing Street, Mr Wilson told me, then Mr Marcia Williams, Dr Bernard Donoghue and Mr Terence Lancaster that he only intended to stay for two years.

Fact. The following March he repeated to his personal staff his intention to retire. Indeed, he wanted to advance the day. Mrs Williams (by then Lady Falkender) quite properly, in my view, dissuaded him from going that summer or at the time of the party conference in October.

Fact. At that conference Mr Wilson instructed me and his principal private secretary, Mr (now Sir) Kenneth Stowe, to draw up a timetable for his retirement, starting at the end of the following February, which would be a model for future retirements from the party leadership (now overtaken, unfortunately, by the electoral college). That document was in his hands early in November. Our projected day for his retirement was April 5, 1976, the exact day of departure. For greater historical accuracy, I retained a copy.

What other facts do you want? Yours sincerely, JOE HAINES, 7 Hael Shaw, Tonbridge, Kent, December 1.

Student grants

From Mrs Heather S. Bus.

Sir, When we "brained-drained" from the USA back to England in the seventies so that our children, like us, would have the privilege of growing up to be British, I little thought that in the eighties I might regret the decision then made in patriotic fervour.

Now, as I, too, look around at the great divide between South and North, between employed and unemployed and, above all, at the frightening increase in all forms of mindless extremism, I feel defeated.

In particular, it seems ironic that we no longer may be able to afford to send our daughter to university to achieve her lifelong ambition without great financial hardship. It is psychologically ill-advised that, as a result of the changes in student grants, an 18-year-old should be given the responsibilities of an adult but not the privileges and have to remain totally dependent on his or her parents.

It is unjust that we have only until October 1985, to try to adjust our finances, yet again we find ourselves caught in the middle-class economic trap. We look around us and see others with perks such as cars, lower mortgages, private medical insurance and even education, whereas my husband, as a civil servant, receives no such benefits. Nor are we able to manipulate the system as many do who are involved in small businesses.

Even more ridiculous is the situation in which we now find ourselves, where it may well be financially more practicable for me to discontinue my work to change our income bracket; that, in order for our daughter to receive some form of grant, I would voluntarily have to join the growing ranks of the unemployed.

Yours faithfully, HEATHER S. BUS, 5 Howard Close, Fleet, Hampshire.

By any other hue

From Mr Donald Cross.

Sir, As a supporter of the Labour Party, I note with interest that The Times has planned for 1985 will have "pinkish" hue (report, November 27).

Horticulturalists still struggle to produce a rose that blooms blue and stays blue.

You will perhaps allow me, Sir, to say that I rarely see you encountering the same difficulty. Yours faithfully, DONALD CROSS, 8 Sherwood Close, Exeter, Devon.

Prospect of VAT on publications

From Dr George A. Weir.

Sir, I hesitate to add to the volume of correspondence on the subject of the possible taxation of printed matter, but I feel that a compromise exists which seems to have certain advantages over some of the alternatives. This is to alter the VAT status of educational institutions at the same time that changes are made in the status of printing and publishing.

At present, educational services are exempt from VAT: the change I would propose would be to zero-rate them. Many of your correspondents have rightly pointed out the inequity of a "tax on knowledge". Sir, such a tax already exists in the form of the VAT which cannot at present be recovered on the inputs of taxed items (such as equipment, telephone bills and the like).

Zero-rating of the educational sector would not diminish the overall revenue from VAT greatly, but would remove the cost implications for scholarly research of imposing the standard rate of VAT on printed matter. Indeed, as a number of educational institutions already play an important role in the preservation of our national architectural heritage, the change in their VAT status would also provide a modest reduction in the cost of funding repairs.

It is illogical to grant favoured tax status to one sector of consumer expenditure at the expense of other forms of activity, and outside education or the purchase of professional books by firms or practices which already fall within the VAT net, the bulk of the printing and publishing market is largely for entertainment: why should I, when I board a train, be taxed on the bottle of whisky which I drink on my trip but not the paperback which I also pick up to while away the hours?

The late Sir Gerald Nabarro succeeded in identifying the anomalies of the present system of purchase tax: VAT, which is fundamentally simpler, should not be allowed to collect a similar bunch of anomalies. Yours sincerely, GEORGE WEIR, Webtec Industrial Technology Limited, 4a St Andrew Square, Edinburgh, November 21.

From the Presidents of the Association of University Teachers and the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

Sir, As individual lecturers and as representatives of the two largest professional associations in higher education, we wish to add our voices to the growing tide of protest against the Government's plans to levy VAT on books.

Already, as a consequence of expenditure cuts, students and teachers in our colleges have fewer books than they need. For example, the book collections of the Third World libraries have fallen by 25 per cent over the last five years. In addition, between 1980 and 1983 they were forced to cancel on average 350 periodical subscriptions each, thus reducing the ability of scholars and researchers to employ one of their principal means of communicating and learning about new discoveries and developments in their disciplines. The experience in polytechnics has been similar.

VAT on books and journals will exacerbate dramatically these damaging trends. Whatever system is used for applying the new tax, the resulting price rises and extra administrative costs will inevitably be passed on to educational institutions. The access of many students to knowledge will be more valid criticism of the European Development Fund, from our point of view, would be that it is still dominated too much by French aid policy.

It is, of course, right to emphasize the need to scrutinize aid expenditure and to recognize the mistakes that may be made both by our own Government, the relatively new and inexperienced governments with which we deal, and the international institutions.

No doubt we have learned to be more realistic in our expectations than we were a generation ago; we have learned more about the immense changes involved in development and the things that can go wrong. But I trust that, in recognizing the difficulties, we shall not lose sight of the moral imperative without which there would be no aid programme, whatever its weaknesses and, as many of us would say, however inadequate the sacrifice that it represents.

This I think, is what most of the speakers in the Commons debate on November 22 had in mind; it gave the debate a perspective which you do not seem to have established.

Yours faithfully, JAMES MARK, 6 Manorbrook, SE3, November 27.

Paper pounds

From Mr Robert Carnaghan.

Sir, Lord Moynie asks for Scottish notes to be made legal tender in England (November 24). He might be interested to learn that Scottish notes are not legal tender even in Scotland.

Let neither he nor Scottish nationalists grieve over this situation. For while English notes are indeed legal in Scotland (as are Scottish notes in England), they are not, with the disappearing exception of £1 notes, legal tender in Scotland.

No sound currency needs, and no unsound currency deserves, the flat status of "legal tender". Yours faithfully, ROBERT CARNAGHAN, 22 Wentworth Close, Watford, Hertfordshire, November 27.

Plight of Soviet war prisoners

From Lord Bethell.

Sir, I wish that those who write about the dangers of helping Soviet prisoners of the Afghan resistance would take the trouble and risk of going into Afghanistan, as I did earlier this year. The experience might modify their views.

At one camp that I visited inside Afghanistan there were 15 Soviet prisoners, nine of whom I interviewed. They were being kept in holes in the ground, hardly ever allowed to see the light. Their flesh was dirty and swollen. Several could hardly walk. Others were on the point of nervous collapse. They begged me to help them and they were ready to go anywhere in the world.

Igor Rykov and Oleg Khlan, whom I saw at another camp in the border region, also begged me to help them. They, too, were in an appalling state. The difference was that their captors were ready to release them, or rather anxious to get rid of them. The groups have no facilities for keeping prisoners and former Soviet soldiers are, to put it mildly, unpopular. If I had turned down their plea, I doubt whether they would have survived very long.

The Afghan attitude is quite understandable, given the suffering that the Soviet Army has created. I believe though that the Western world should try to help these unfortunate young prisoners who are also victims of the Soviet Government's policy.

And so Rykov and Khlan came to Britain. They did not choose Britain. They just wanted to be released from Afghan captivity and Britain gave them sanctuary for humanitarian reasons. More than £10,000, all of it from private funds, were spent on rescuing them and looking after them. When I heard that they were drawing social security I stopped it and the sum drawn, £204, was repaid to the DHSS.

As has happened many times before, these two traumatized Soviet boys did not adapt to life in the West. It was always envisaged that they might not. Still, I am proud that Britain rescued them and gave them a chance to live here. It is a British tradition that I hope will continue to be applied to Soviet prisoners in Afghanistan, as to other victims of oppression.

Yours sincerely, NICHOLAS BETHELL, 73 Sussex Square, W2, November 30.

'Welfare' benefit

From Mr Mervyn Benford.

Sir, To means-test child benefit substantially alters the significance to the state of parenthood. Where once it was a condition recognized through tax allowances applied without discrimination, and particularly favourable near the various thresholds, it now completely assumes a "welfare" status it never had before, even as a DHSS benefit (for it replaced tax allowances only as a mechanism ensuring delivery to mothers) and becomes a condition relative to income.

One may not predict the outcomes of such philosophical drift with any certainty. Among the more intriguing would be an explosion of low-income child-bearing, especially if benefits are enhanced by such redistribution, and a complementary reduction in birthrate among middle-income families marginally outside entitlement. Part-time working by mothers to meet high household overheads would be affected by the loss of some £6 to £20 a week. The job may not be worth it or it may become essential to work full-time.

One trusts that those responsible for what may seem neat, financial tinkering on shallow political premises will ponder more deeply the elements and principles they stir in such an exercise. It certainly has implications for the balance between redistribution and its abolition, management reversing the clear principle of the previous change.

There are arguments for redistributing personal wealth, for asking the better-off to surrender some of the built-in privileges they have wrongly enjoyed. The married man's tax allowance is just such a factor. It is an anachronism, and its abolition would release millions of pounds for redistribution and could eliminate the poverty trap altogether.

If we are to be asked to probe our consciences and make such sacrifice let it be through such a more valid process.

Yours sincerely, MERVYN BENFORD, Hill Cottage, Lewknor, Oxford, November 21.

Cold comfort

From Mrs Audrey Stenner.

Sir, Your photograph of the "hanging bridges" of Middlesex Hospital (November 28) has solved a mystery for me.

One evening recently when I rang my daughter a perfectly serious voice told me that she was unavailable because she was out in the grounds with a torch hunting for a sausage. The further explanation that the sausage had fallen out of her window did nothing to dispel my suspicion that the telephones had been taken over by jokers as part of a student rag.

Perhaps this is as eloquent a commentary as is needed on the penurious state of students when a sausage that has plunged from the seventh floor is considered worthy of retrieval.

Yours faithfully, AUDREY STENNER, JESSAMINE HENNER, Buckden, Cambridgeshire, November 28.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the King George's Fund for Sailors, this evening attended a Reception given by the Fund at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, SW1.
Squadron Leader Timothy Finnegan was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as Visitor of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Foundation of St Catherine's, was present this evening at a dinner given by the Trustees at the Cumberland Lodge, The Great Park, Windsor.

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

December 3: The Duke of Gloucester visited The Royal Smithfield Show 1984 at Earls Court Exhibition Centre, London, today.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
December 3: Princess Alexandra was present this afternoon at the Child Education Concert, "Hansel and Gretel", at the Royal Festival Hall.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend the Feathers Club Association's gala concert at the Albert Hall on December 10.

The Duchess of Kent will open the first building on the Manchester Science Park and will visit Matchpoint, the Lawn Tennis Association's North-west Training Centre at Handforth, Macclesfield, Cheshire, on December 12. Later, as patron, she will attend a concert in aid of the National Society of Cancer Relief at the Anglican Cathedral, Liverpool.

A memorial service for G. W. (Bill) Mackworth-Young will be held at noon on Friday, December 7, at St Margaret's Church, Westminster.

A memorial service for Mr Anthony Shrimley will be held at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at 11am today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S. R. Ayre and Miss C. S. Sergeant
The engagement is announced between Simon Robert, only son of Mr and Mrs H. W. Ayre, of King Square, Bridgewater, Somerset, and Caroline Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Sergeant, of Granville Drive, Fleet, Hampshire.

Mr T. R. Plant and Miss A. O. Kisch
The engagement is announced between Tom, younger son of Mr and Mrs G. R. G. Plant, of Beaconfield, Buckinghamshire, and Antonia, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. M. Kisch, of Cobham, Surrey.

Birthdays today

The Marchioness of Anglesey, 60; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland, 61; Mr Ronnie Corbett, 54; Sir Patrick Donner, 80; Miss Gemma Jones, 42; Mrs Pamela W. Matthews, 70; Miss Yvonne Minton, 41; Dr A. L. Rowe, 51; Mr J. C. Trevelin, 76; the Rev Professor C. J. M. Weir, 87.

Reception

King George's Fund for Sailors
The Duke of Edinburgh, president, was present at a reception given in aid of King George's Fund for Sailors at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, last night. The chairman of the reception was Lady Herbert. During the evening Mr Nicholas Bonham auctioned naval memorabilia. Admiral Sir William O'Brien, chairman of the general council, and Captain Sir Miles Wingate, deputy chairman, were among those present.

Maundy Service

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will attend the Maundy Service in Ripon Cathedral on April 4, when the Queen will distribute royal Maundy money. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

Pissarro family launch for auctioneers

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The Pissarro family launched Phillips' first sale of important Impressionist and modern paintings yesterday in an attempt to join Sotheby's and Christie's in the big league.

The sale was run by Joachim Pissarro, great-grandson of Camille Pissarro, the Impressionist painter. He has been newly recruited to run the Impressionist department.

The two big successes of the day were paintings by his great-grandfather. "Le Laitier dans le pré, Engrain", a sunny summer scene, was sold for £176,000 (estimate £100,000 to £150,000) to Acquaviva, the New York dealers. Sachiko Tsuchiya, a Tokyo dealer, paid the same price for a second Pissarro (estimate £150,000 to £200,000). "Jardin à Engrain, Gîte Blancher", dating from 1898, a winter garden white with frost.

Pissarro proved less successful at selling Renoir. The most expensive painting he had managed to tempt into his sale was Renoir's "La Loge" of about 1890, which failed to find a buyer and was bought in at £230,000. The sale made £12.5 million, with 39 per cent unsold.

Meanwhile Christie's had some of the best Italian majolica seen on the market for a long time. A Florentine



A Florentine drug jar of the fifteenth century which sold at Christie's yesterday for £30,240.

Latest appointments



Prison post: Miss Jo Fowler, aged 37, who yesterday became deputy governor of Winstan Green prison in Birmingham, one of the country's most crowded men's prisons.

University news

Oxford
Awards and elections
The University of Oxford, examinations of the Faculty of Theology, have been held at Christ Church, Oxford, from October 1 to 10.

Cambridge
The University of Cambridge, examinations of the Faculty of Theology, have been held at Christ Church, Cambridge, from October 1 to 10.

London
The University of London, examinations of the Faculty of Theology, have been held at Christ Church, London, from October 1 to 10.

Unseeded women win championship

Mrs E. Phillips's Surrey team won the English Bridge Union's women's team championship for the White-Lane Cup at the Queen's Hotel, Hastings, over the weekend from an original entry of 54 teams (a Bridge Correspondent writes).

In the semi-final she beat the seeded team of Mrs. Scarborough and Mrs. G. Scott-Jones, runners-up in the recent olympiad, and went on to defeat by 19 points another seeded team captained by Mrs. A. L. Fleming in the final after being 20 down at half-time. Results were:

Surrey 19-0 vs. Scarborough 0-20
Surrey 19-0 vs. Scott-Jones 0-20
Surrey 19-0 vs. Fleming 0-20

Princess Constance Magogo

Princess Constance Magogo kaDinuzulu kaCetshwayo kaSenzangakhona, who died in Durban on November 2, was a direct descendant of the Zulu royal lineage and a great-aunt of the present Zulu King Zwelithini. She was the first child of King Dinuzulu (1868-1913) and Queen Silomo (of the Malolose clan).

Princess Constance was born at the Nongoma royal palace in 1900, after her father's return from exile on the island of St Helena where he had been sent by the British authorities. After her mother's premature death she had the responsibility early in life of caring for her two younger brothers, the future Zulu King Solomon Maphumula Nkayishana (r. 1916-1933) and Mshiyeni who served as regent from 1933 to 1948.

Latest wills

Mr Douglas Harry Sinclair Standish, of Chelmsford, left estate valued at £601,275 net. After a number of bequests he left a fourth of the residue to the Boys Brigade and the RSPCA.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Agaleste, Mr Augustus, of Amesbury, £382,091
Brighton, Mr Percival Ernest, £313,671
Ash, Mrs Dorothy Teller, of Bournemouth, £347,378
Chisima, Mr Ivor, of Wimbourn, £296,427
Draper, Mrs Margaret Rosina Charlotte, of Norton St Philip, Somerset, £245,711
Robinson, Mr James Denis, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, £239,300
Wareham, Mr Walter Richard, of Iwerne Minster, Dorset, £236,175
Scarle, Mrs Leah Florence, of Barnet, London, £243,711

Church news

Appointments
The Rev J. C. P. Barton, priest-in-charge, Malvernbury, Worcester, and Worcester, has been appointed to the vacant post of priest-in-charge of the parish of St. Andrew, Worcester.

Reserve decision
The Gibraltar Point coastal reserve near Skegness, Lincolnshire, has been declared a national nature reserve by the Nature Conservancy Council.

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Scottish, Ancient, Islamic, English and Foreign Coins:
Tuesday, 4 December at 2 p.m., King Street:
The first part of the sale comprises a collection of Scottish coins and includes issues of each monarch from William I 'The Lion' until the Union with England in 1707. There are some attractive gold coins of James I, James IV and James VI in the collection, and a particularly fine silver portrait of Mary, Queen of Scots, which is expected to sell for £1,200 to £1,500. Other groups are of English Halfcrowns with examples from each reign from Elizabeth I to George V and of Islamic coins. The latter was formed some decades ago, each piece being in its original envelope bearing a full description. There is also a general selection of English and Foreign coins as well as numismatic books relating to Scotland and old coin auction catalogues. *Entries for next sale close 2 January, 1985.*

Important French Furniture, Objects of Art and Tapestries:
Thursday, 6 December at 11 a.m., King Street: An interesting selection of ornate objects include a pair of Meissen Augustus Rex vases with Louis XVI ormolu handles (£50,000 to £15,000); a pair of Empire ormolu-mounted serpentine ewers with winged female handles (£6,000 to £8,000) and an important 44-piece French ormolu table service in the Régence style by F. Barbedienne in 1875 and 1876 (£30,000 to £50,000). Tapestries include a rare set of three Paris examples depicting episodes from Ovid's Metamorphoses woven at the de la Planche workshops and forming part of the original furnishings of Hertsingholm Castle, Sweden, restored by Count Nils Bonde in 1738. Among the furniture there is an interesting group of Boulle pieces including a slope-front bureau (£20,000 to £25,000); an Antwerp secretaire inlaid with engraved mother-of-pearl (£15,000 to £20,000) and a Louis XIV polychrome Boulle commode (£30,000 to £40,000). The two most interesting pieces, however, are a Louis XV marquetry table à transformations attributed to the celebrated Jean-François Oeben, reputedly purchased from Napoleon III by the 1st Marquis of Hamilton, and a Louis XVI mahogany bureau paroi by J. H. Riesener. *Entries for next sale close 21 January, 1985.*

Finest and Rarest Wines and Collectors' Pieces:
Thursday, 6 December at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street: The penultimate wine sale at King Street this year (there is an extra sale of nearly similar quality on December 13!) fully justifies its title and commences with a magnum and two bottles of extremely rare pre-phylloxera Chateau Lafite 1878. Claret is represented overall by vintages from 1872 to 1979, mostly in small sized lots, with the emphasis on such classic years as 1929, 1945, 1949, 1953, 1959 and 1961. Vintage port is available in limited quantities, mostly of mature vintages, and the peak of quality is represented by Quinta do Novais 1931, both from grafted vines and from the Nacional vineyard where the vines are ungrafted. Also in the sale are stocks of Burgundy, finest German wines, rare old Champagne, Madeiran and Cognac. The afternoon session is brought to a close by a wide range of Collectors' Pieces. These include numerous interesting and ingenious corkscrews, decanting cradles, books and other antiques. *Entries for next sale close 2 January, 1985.*

Important Modern and Contemporary Prints:
Thursday, 6 December at 10.30 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., King Street: The flavour of this sale is markedly Germanic. Interest in the particularly rich and varied group of Expressionist prints by Beckmann, Dix, Feilke, Müller, Nolde, Pechstein and Schmidt-Rottluff is likely to be stimulated by the

current exhibition at the British Museum. Highlights are a rare, early colour linocut by Max Ernst (£4,000 to £5,000) and the extremely rare deluxe edition of Feininger's *Zoo/Holocauste*, handprinted by the artist (£8,000 to £25,000). Others include *Los Caballeros Españoles* (£2,000 to £4,000), superb impressions of Gauguin's colour woodcut *Noa Noa* (£8,000 to £10,000), Klee's *Schnecken* (£10,000 to £15,000), and Malevich's important *Suprematism 34 drawings* portfolio (£10,000 to £15,000). A group of Munch is distinguished by an early, black impression of the *Madonna* (£30,000 to £40,000). *Entries for next sale close 20 January, 1985.*

Important Old Master Prints:
Friday, 7 December at 10.30 a.m., King Street: Unusual features of this well-balanced sale include a group of Fontainebleau School prints of great quality headed by Leon Davent's *Vulcan's Forge* (£2,000 to £3,000). There is also an excellent selection of Italian Chiaroscuro woodcuts by Ugo da Carpi, Alessandro Gandini and Andrea Andreani. The latter's *Enchantment*, after Raffaello is printed in a rare colour combination of rich red and deep greens and browns (£2,000 to £3,000). There is also an interesting group of French prints of ornamental designs for metalwork and jewellery. No major Old Master sale would be complete without its complement of fine Dürer and Rembrandt. The present sale contains a sharp, early impression of the celebrated *Melancholia I* by Dürer (£3,000 to £4,000) as well as fine woodcuts including the unusual green chiaroscuro printing of the *Rhinoceros* (£2,000 to £4,000). Rembrandts include *The Flight into Egypt* derived from Segher (£12,000 to £16,000), *View of Amsterdam from the North West* (£12,000 to £16,000) and *Landscape with a Square Tower* (£10,000 to £16,000). *Entries for next sale close 21 January, 1985.*

Important Annamese Ceramics:
Friday, 7 December at 11 a.m., King Street: the collection of Annamese Ceramics formed by Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Piccus is probably the world's finest and most select collection of stonewares and porcelains from the area of modern-day Vietnam. Its dispersal marks perhaps the last time that a collector can assemble a group of such consistent quality and rarity. In a second catalogue representing the remainder of the sale (and continuing on Monday, 10 December at 10.30 a.m.), ceramics primarily made for Chinese domestic taste is a splendid gilt-bronze gobelet-shaped reliquary and cover of early 8th century date (£50,000 to £70,000). A remarkable rare archaic bronze tripod vessel, of considerable archaeological significance, may well sell for £50,000. The extensive section devoted to ceramics includes neolithic and later funerary wares, as well as wares in the classical Chinese taste ranging from 15th century blue and white to fine 18th century monochromes and enamelled wares. *Entries for next sale close 21 January, 1985.*

For further information on these and other December sales please contact 01-839 9660 for King Street or 01-581 7611 for South Kensington.

Science report
X-ray laser discoveries provoke excitement
By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

In much the way that beams of ordinary light comprise a mixture of colours, so the rainbow, beams of X-ray used for medical, industrial or scientific purposes consist of a range of different wavelengths that correspond to the colours of the visible beams.

The discovery of the laser, making it possible to produce intense beams of any chosen pure colour, has yielded revolutionary inventions in communications, computers and medical technology.

A comparable discovery of a way of producing beams of pure X-rays of only one wavelength or, even more beneficially, of building a machine that could be tuned to deliver one of a wide range of wavelengths would have a similar impact for industry, medicine and research.

It is against that background that three discoveries have provided some excitement in the world of applied physics research. The first is the development of "soft" X-ray lasers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, operated for the United States Department of Energy by the University of California.

Two models have been built. One generates X-rays with a wavelength of 1.55 angstroms from a source of gas formed from hot vaporized strontium. The other has two wavelengths, 206 and 209 angstroms, formed from vaporized selenium.

The wavelengths of the soft X-ray lasers are 25 times shorter than visible light (an angstrom is ten-millionths of a millimetre). The Lawrence Livermore soft X-ray laser works by first shining a powerful pulse of green light from a device developed previously at the laboratory, called the Novette laser, at the appropriate metal deposited over a piece of film the size of a postage stamp.

The energy from the Novette device vaporizes the film and turns the metallic atoms into a highly energized state. As they return to their normal condition they emit X-rays.

The team working with Professor Dennis Matthews, atomic physicist and head of the experimental group, are considering possible applications for the device such as drawing more compact circuit patterns on the wafers of silicon from which microcomputers are made, or taking three-dimensional hologram pictures of structures inside living cells.

The second advance also comes from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. But with that discovery X-rays are produced by a method called "transition radiation". It is a phenomenon which occurs if high-speed charged particles such as electrons can be made to pass from one material to another having a different index of refraction.

In practice, the apparatus built in conjunction with scientists from Stanford University, California, used a stack of four thin polypropylene films evenly spaced in a vacuum vessel across which bursts of electrons, accelerated to 54 million electron volts, were aimed.

The passage from vacuum to solid material as the electrons penetrated the film generated a forward-direction beam of X-rays, whose intensity and wavelength could be chosen from 35 to 63 angstroms.

The characteristics of the beam are "tuned" by varying the energy of the electron beam, choice of film material and its thickness, and the spacing between the individual foils forming the stack of film.

The third development lies in the claim of scientists at the Thomas J. Watson Research Laboratories of IBM, at Yorktown Heights, near New York, to have generated the world's shortest light pulses.

They have a machine which produces 800 pulses of light a second and each flash lasts only 12 femtoseconds (12 F for short).

The number of femtoseconds in one second is 1,000,000,000,000,000. In two seconds light travels from Earth past the moon. In 1.2 Fs, it moves only five microns, roughly one tenth the width of a human hair.

The generation of such short pulses is applicable to "strobilights", or a source of light to be used in apparatus for slowing or freezing.

MR W. I. WHITEHOUSE

He was elected Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1961, and Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in 1972. He served on Committees of the Royal College of Gynaecology, the British Medical Association, elected Fellow in 1984 and followed this with a Diploma in Obstetrics in 1952.

He spent two years in the Royal Navy, later retaining a commission in the Royal Naval Reserve, gaining the Royal Naval Reserve Decoration in 1966.

After several medical appointments he became Lecturer in Anatomy at the University of Birmingham in 1957. There followed spells as a Registrar and Tutor at Hamman-Smith Hospital, London and as Senior Registrar and Tutor at the Mater and the Women's Hospitals, Liverpool.

In 1964 he was appointed Senior Lecturer for the Westminster Medical School, and as an Honorary Consultant for Westminster Hospital and Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton. He played a vital part in setting up the Medical School's Academic Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and was active as the Sub-Dean of the Medical School. Recently he had been appointed to continue as Sub-Dean of the combined Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School.

As a researcher he had been particularly interested over the last few years in the prevention of human foetal abnormality and death and also in contraceptive techniques. His association with the Nuffield Institute of Comparative Medicine and the Zoological Society of London resulted in work on animal welfare and husbandry and also on problems of animal reproduction. He introduced laparoscopy to the field of veterinary medicine.

He also taught as a Visiting Professor in the German Democratic Republic and in Poland. His work there was recognized by his being appointed the only Western Honorary Member of the Polish Gynaecological Society.

Whitehouse will best be remembered as an excellent Lecturer and a very able clinician and surgeon.

Captain S. T. A. Livingstone-Learmonth, who died on November 8 at the age of 79, was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Glamorgan in 1960, and in 1974 became the first High Sheriff of the new county of Gwynedd.

Mr John Henry Wright, CBE, who died on November 30 at the age of 73, was Ambassador to Honduras from 1963 to 1969.

Collins uses new method of funding
By Philip Robinson

Mr Collins, who died on November 30 at the age of 73, was Ambassador to Honduras from 1963 to 1969.

CHRISTIE'S A WEEK IN VIEW

1500-1600

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

New capital needed for a clean BA takeoff

Apart from the bald profit figures, there was not much of substance to come out of yesterday's interim statement from British Airways. This is hardly surprising, even for an airline that is set to relaunch itself later today in a new coat of many colours. (Background, page 22)

With privatization only a matter of months away, not only Lord King and his fellow directors operating in the shadow of the US Securities and Exchange Commission and other guardians of the prospectus, they are also still negotiating final details of the flotation package with Whitehall.

Lord King made it clear yesterday that he would not be showing his hand in public on such crucial questions as the pre-sale restructuring of the airline's balance sheet until the argument with Government officials has been won or lost. The notional target date for launching BA on the stock market is still mid-February. Thus there is precious little time left for the airline and the Department of Transport to settle their differences, if the target is to be met.

It is a tribute to the new regime at BA that it is not the P & L account which is causing the problem. Yesterday's figures showed that the six-month operating surplus was £236 million, against £198 million last time. The pretax figure emerges as £189 million, against £150 million. The first half is always BA's best, so the year as a whole will not produce double the half-time outcome - nothing like. Nevertheless it will be more than adequate for stock market sale purposes.

Traffic volume was up by a healthy 11.4 per cent in passenger terms; 9.6 per cent in revenue passenger kilometres.

Freight, mail and cargo, the ancillary businesses, all turned in good performances. The improvement in yields was less marked at 4.8 per cent, reflecting the fact that BA has been attracting most of its new customers at the low margin economy class end of its aircraft. At around 65 per cent, load factors are pushing the maximum which BA can realistically hope to sustain. Profits growth in future will have to come increasingly from higher prices or falling costs (of which lower interest charges will be the most significant).

The arguments with Whitehall fall into a number of categories. Lord King appears to have won his battle to avoid complicating the actual flotation by trying to lure the small man with shareholder perks such as cut-price tickets. Any such scheme, while laudable in intent and fashionable

after Telecom, would be too complex and legally dangerous to be worth risking in this case. BA feels. The BA board would like a broad mix of institutional and private shareholders: the time to give them perks, it believes, is after flotation.

The real battle is over the balance sheet, where progress so far appears to be limited. BA wants to cut its debt-equity ratio from 73/27 per cent now to 25/75 per cent or immediately after flotation day, implying a fairly hefty injection of new capital. Much, if not all of this would be recouped by the Government in the form of higher sale proceeds. The Government's opening shot has been to say (as ever) "no new money." There will inevitably be an eventual compromise that both parties will swear is satisfactory; but for the time being the two camps are standing their ground.

BA's wish appears to be to see the company valued at £1,000 million, with the Government taking roughly £500 million of net proceeds and the balance going into the balance sheet in one form or another.

Meanwhile lawyers, civil servants and BA itself are working themselves into a lather over the question of potential overseas ownership of the airline. Partly this is the perennial question of whether or not to market the airline's shares in New York and other foreign centres.

It is clear that BA is even more suited as a stock for the American market than is BT, and it seems inevitable that a larger chunk of the issue will be reserved for foreigners than the 13.7 per cent of Telecom which was underwritten abroad last weekend. This is where the complications begin.

The post-war treaties which govern most of BA's international operations are based on the assumption that "substantial ownership" and "effective control" of the airline resides in Britain. The argument now raging is over how to draft the articles of association so as to prevent a putative loss of control by British interests. The spectres of non-voting shares for overseas buyers and shares which entail a loss of voting rights at the board's whim raising their heads. They are sufficiently important to have been on the agenda of yesterday's BA board meeting.

Lawyers are divided on what constitutes effective control. The one certainty is that there will be a "golden share" for the Government to block unwanted takeovers, but that by itself is not enough. BA did confirm yesterday that the plan remains to sell 100 per cent of the airline.

The Times securities conference

In two years the Stock Exchange will have been transformed in ways far more radical than either the Stock Exchange Council or the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Cecil Parkinson, imagined when in July last year they did their deal: the abolition of stockbrokers' minimum commissions in exchange for the Government's calling off proceedings in the Restrictive Practices Court. Winds of change in the Stock Exchange and the City at large are blowing from other directions too.

Our leading firm of chartered accountants, Peat Marwick, have therefore joined with The Times in arranging a one-day conference to consider "New Rules in a Changing Securities Market." The conference, which has attracted a dazzling array of expert speakers, will be held at the InterContinental Hotel on February 5 next.

The intention is to analyse current

developments in the operation and regulation of the securities markets. Speakers will review changes in the rules and practice affecting public offerings of securities in the light of new legislation (The Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 1984), the issue of a revised Stock Exchange Yellow Book, and the Government White Paper on investor protection. They will also examine the current realignment of City organizations.

The conference is addressed to the City-brokers, bankers, market-makers, dealers, accountants, lawyers and other professional advisers, to directors and senior executives of listed companies; and to proprietors and advisers of growing companies who may be considering going public.

Would those wishing to attend (cost £150 plus VAT) or who would like more information, please contact Mrs. P. D. Austin, Peat Marwick, No. 1, Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD.

Argentina and banks agree \$16bn loan refinancing

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Argentina has reached an important agreement with its foreign creditors to refinance \$16 billion (£13 billion) of its \$45 billion debt. It will receive close to \$5.5 billion in fresh credit to meet balance of payments deficits next year.

The president of the Central Bank, Enrique García Vazquez, announced details of the accord yesterday in Buenos Aires after he returned from three weeks of negotiations with the 11-bank steering committee of Argentina's 300 creditor banks. He said the deal would open the doors to a \$1.4 billion standby loan Argentina is seeking from the International Monetary Fund.

The banks have agreed to

refinance \$11 billion of public sector debt and \$5 billion of private debt falling due between 1982 and 1985. These loans will be rolled over for 12 years with a three-year grace period.

The banks will also contribute \$4.2 billion of fresh loans with a 10-year maturity, and a three-year grace period.

An additional \$1 billion will come from official lending agencies of the creditor nations and \$270 million from the IMF.

The agreement comes after nearly a year of sometimes acrimonious negotiations in which Argentina sought to renegotiate its crippling debt burdens without having harsh austerity measures imposed by the IMF.

It is an important political achievement for President Raul Alfonsín, who had vowed to have the debt problem under control before he celebrates a year in office next Monday.

The deal includes what Argentine officials said were more lenient terms than those obtained in a frustrated negotiating effort by the outgoing military government last year. Señor García Vazquez said "friendly nations" had intervened to make the agreement possible.

However, the accord is likely to draw criticism from Argentina's powerful Peronist labour unions, most of which are completing internal elections to renew their leaderships.

Señor Eduardo Scui, a Peronist economist linked to the unions, predicted yesterday that the Government's renegotiating strategy would result in a profound recession next year.

Señor García Vazquez denied charges that the conditions Argentina had accepted were recessionary, and said that an agreement with foreign creditors "will make the rules of the game clearer in Argentina and open the way for investment."

The \$16 billion loan refinancing will carry an interest rate of 1-3/8 over the London inter-bank offered rate (Libor). The new \$4.2 billion loan will accrue interest at 1-5/8 over Libor, or 1-1/4 above the US prime rate.

ECGD puts up charges for costliest projects

By John Lawless

The Export Credits Guarantee Department yesterday moved to stem potentially costly losses that would result from a sustained recovery of sterling's value during the coming year.

The government insurance agency - which will end 1984 about £400m overdrawn from the Treasury-held Consolidated Fund - substantially increased premiums it charges to large contractors bidding for big projects overseas.

This means that if a British company wins a £100m order to build a power station, perhaps the cost of protecting itself against adverse exchange rate movements during a lengthy tendering period will be up to £4m.

Large contractors such as Davy and Babcock, whose efforts generate many thousands of jobs in Britain's subcontracting industry, have told the Government that his move will seriously reduce their competitiveness.

The increase could not have come at a worse time. The level of project business worldwide is at a post-war low.

Since the so-called "tender to contract" (TTC) insurance policy was introduced in 1977, it has been an unintentional subsidy.

In the first three years, the ECGD lost £44m. The rate of loss has slowed but it is believed to have cost the agency almost another £30m since then.

It was intended to be more or less break even, with the ECGD knowing it would pay out heavily when the pound is on the rise, and gaining when it is declining in value.

However overseas customers have been demanding that the benefits of devaluation must be passed on to them.

There used to be a flat rate fee of £5,000 which will now be 0.1 per cent of the sterling value covered. Additional charges made to those who win bids go up from between 0.3 to 1.05 per cent to 2.5 to 4 per cent - regarded as the bare minimum by the ECGD.

The ECGD has TTC under close review and will make a decision whether to keep it in the spring. With private insurers certain not to be interested in taking on the big-risk project business, British contractors could face an almost impossible bidding situation.

World Bank 'should have more capital'

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The World Bank should be given more capital to enable it to increase lending and play a broader role in promoting adjustment in developing countries, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday.

Delivering his first big policy speech on the role and future of the international financial institutions, the Governor defended both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank against recent criticisms and rejected the case for fundamental reform. But he advocated a number of changes along the lines of "controlled evolution".

Mr Leigh-Pemberton, who was giving the Jane Hodge Memorial Lecture at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, said that without further capital the World Bank could find itself a net taker of funds from developing countries within two or three years.

Although its main activity should remain long-term project lending, the Governor said that broader policy-based lending was an important adjunct and the World Bank's role in assisting structural adjustment should be encouraged.

He also recommended giving further consideration to establishing a banking subsidiary which might help to encourage



Leigh-Pemberton: call for more development aid.

co-financing and advocated closer co-operation with the IMF.

Greater staff interchange, joint missions, and common research could help to achieve this, although the Governor said it would be wrong to push the two bodies too closely together and risk compromising their distinct responsibilities.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton's main recommendation for the International Monetary Fund was a stepping up of its surveillance role. "Over time it would be helpful to confidence if fund surveillance could be extended effectively to the whole membership, one consequence at least being the opportunity to eliminate some of the restrictive practices which have developed

Currys court dispute unresolved

By Cliff Feltham

High street rivals Dixons and Currys took their £248 million two-month takeover battle into the High Court yesterday, but after an all-day hearing the outcome is still unresolved and the case will go on again today.

Dixons was seeking to unshackle itself from an injunction obtained by Currys on Friday night, preventing it from declaring its bid unconditional and thereby giving it victory.

Currys is protesting that one of its shareholders, Scottish Amicable, wanted to change its mind and withdraw its acceptance of the offer in respect of a small but crucial parcel of shares, but was prevented from doing so by Dixons' merchant bank, Morgan Grenfell.

At that time, withdrawal would have pushed Dixons back below the 50 per cent they needed to claim victory.

Trading in the shares of both Currys and Dixons was suspended on the Stock Exchange yesterday.

It is not likely to be resumed until the case is over.

ANGLO-AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA: The group is paying an interim dividend of 35 cents (same). Pretax profit totalled R378.4 million or £12.8 million (R350.4 million) for the six months ended September 30 last. Earnings per share were 107.8 cents (106.7) excluding share of retained profits of associates or 152.7 cents (145.5).

Telecom boosts shares

Share prices scaled new peaks yesterday, inspired by the success of the British Telecom flotation. The FT-SE 100-share index rose to a record 1191.7, 10.4 points above Friday's close.

This was without any help from the soaring share price of the newly quoted British Telecom, which becomes a member of the index only from today. Johnson Matthey plc is being dropped from the index to make way for BT.

Market report, page 19

Dominion rise

Dominion International, the natural resources, property development and financial services group, has increased pretax profits for the half year to September 30 from £2.6 million to £3.1 million. Turnover rose to £17.5 million from £13.6 million. The group is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 2.2p.

Tempus, page 17

Store stake

Great Universal Stores is being allowed to maintain a 12.7 per cent stake in Empire Stores (Bradford). Last year a monopolies investigation found a merger would act against the public interest, and the government ordered GUS's stake to be cut from 26 per cent to below 10 per cent. But the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday the reduction of GUS's stake to 12.7 per cent removed the material influence GUS's not allowed to buy further shares.

Beer profits


Matthew Brown, the Blackburn-based brewer, has increased pretax profits to £7 million in the year to September 29, up from £6.4 million. Turnover rose from £37.3 million to £44.3 million. A final dividend of 6.412p makes 8.162p for the year against 7.42p last time.

Tempus, page 19

Offshoot sold

Blackwood Hodge, the troubled earthmoving and construction equipment distributor, has agreed to sell its Cummins Diesel Sales and Service offshoot in Britain to Cummins Engine Company for £3.3 million. Discussions on the sale of Blackwood's larger corresponding business in Australia to Cummins are continuing.

Tempus, page 19



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Collins uses new method of funding

By Philip Robinson

William Collins, the publisher, has raised £7 million with a non-interest bearing deep-discounted secured loan stock. This type of funding is believed to be among the first of its kind to take advantage of corporation tax cuts announced in the last Budget.

The group, where News International, the owner of Times Newspapers Ltd, has a 41.68 per cent stake, has placed £9.9 million on the loan with investors in industry (31s) as part of a restructuring of bank borrowings and provision of further medium-term loans.

The deal has been struck at an interest rate equivalent to 11.7 per cent.

The £7 million will be repaid in full after three years which enables 31s to defer the tax on its income until the end of the third year and because the corporation tax at that time is likely to be around 35 per cent.

For William Collins the funding allows it to have immediate cash and use money in the business which would otherwise go in interest payments. It can also offset against tax over the three years the discount between the loan raised and the proceeds received.

A spokesman for 31s said last night: "The reduction in corporation tax promised over the next three years makes these deep-discounted bonds particularly attractive at this time."

Turnround at Massey

Massey-Ferguson made a net profit of US \$4.4 million (£3.6 million) for the third quarter ended October 31, against a net loss of \$11.9 million in the same period a year ago.

Mr Victor Rice, chairman and chief executive, said the fourth quarter was traditionally poor for the industry and he did not expect any real pick-up in sales in the period.

Net income for the first nine months of Massey-Ferguson's financial year was \$14.2 million, on sales of \$1,131 million, compared with a net loss of \$41.1 million on sales of \$1,173 million in the same period in 1983.

'Vendor placings' study

By Our City Staff

The National Association of Pension Funds has asked its standing committee to examine the principle of whether big corporations should issue large numbers of shares via a "vendor placing" to pay for acquisitions.

This method of raising cash involves issuing new shares to the vendor of a company which are immediately placed with institutions for cash.

Normally, companies issue shares which represent only single figure percentages of the total shares in issue.

However, a new record will be struck by the Dee Corporation if proposals to issue 113

million new shares go through. These will raise £180 million to pay for the International Stores and increase Dee's share capital by more than 40 per cent.

The deal was the third vendor placing in a short time. Several fund managers argued that such large sums should be raised by the traditional route of a rights issue which treats all shareholders alike and allows those who wish to maintain their percentage stake in the company. However, a split now seems to be emerging between those managers of pension fund money and the large insurance fund managers.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	MAIN PRICE CHANGES	STERLING
FT Ind Ord 924.9 up 7.6	RISERS:	New York:
FT-A All Shares 571.94 up 11.68	British Telecom p/paid 92p+43p	\$1.1975
FT-SE 100 1191.7 up 10.4	British Telecom f/paid 172p+42p	DM 3.1112
Bargains: figure unavailable because of British Telecom late trading.	Coin Industries 55p+10p	London:
	Jones Woodhead 38p+8p	\$1.1945 down 50pts
	Telecomputing 375p+35p	DM 3.7250 (+0.0025)
Datastream USX 106.49 up 0.26	Summie Clothes 38p+8p	SwFr 3.0675 (+0.0075)
	Metal Sciences 13p+1p	FFr 11.3875 (-0.01)
	Alpine Drinks 19.5p+1.5p	Yen 296.50 (-0.75)
New York	Wight Collins 280p+22p	Index: 74.5 (-0.4)
Dow Jones Average 1184.51 down 4.42	Body Shop Int 470p+35p	Dollar in New York:
		DM 3.1185 (+0.4)
		Index: 143.3 (+0.4)
	FALLS:	
Tokyo	Zygal Dynamics 50p-25p	
Nikkei Dow 11,513.58 up 74.94	Espley Trust 18p-3p	
Hongkong	Vinton Group 193p-28p	
Hang Seng 1122.26 down 5.84	SelectTV 12p-1p	
Amsterdam		
..... 178.2 up 0.7		
Sidney: AC Index 740.1 down 8.9		
Frankfurt		
Commerzbank 1097.4 up 7.5		
Brussels:		
General 157.40 down 0.21		
Paris: CAC 181.2 up 0.2		
Zurich:		
SKA General 314.90 up 0.80		

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	GOLD
RISERS:	
British Telecom p/paid 92p+43p	London fixings
British Telecom f/paid 172p+42p	an \$327.70m-\$329.50
Coin Industries 55p+10p	close \$330.20-\$330.75
Jones Woodhead 38p+8p	£275.75-
Telecomputing 375p+35p	276.25
Summie Clothes 38p+8p	New York
Metal Sciences 13p+1p	Comex (latest) \$330.55
Alpine Drinks 19.5p+1.5p	
Wight Collins 280p+22p	
Body Shop Int 470p+35p	
FALLS:	
Zygal Dynamics 50p-25p	
Espley Trust 18p-3p	
Vinton Group 193p-28p	
SelectTV 12p-1p	

STERLING	INTEREST RATES
New York:	London:
\$1.1975	Bank Base: 9 1/2 - 9 3/4
DM 3.1112	3-month Interbank 9 1/4 - 9 3/4
London:	3-month eligible bills 9 1/4 - 9 3/4
\$1.1945 down 50pts	buying rate
DM 3.7250 (+0.0025)	US:
SwFr 3.0675 (+0.0075)	Prime Rate 11.25-11.50
FFr 11.3875 (-0.01)	Federal Funds 9 1/8
Yen 296.50 (-0.75)	3-month Treasury Bills 8.40-8.36
Index: 74.5 (-0.4)	Long bond yields
Dollar in New York:	10 1/4 - 10 1/8
DM 3.1185 (+0.4)	
Index: 143.3 (+0.4)	

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Shares surge on back of Telecom

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Yesterday was one of the most remarkable days the stock market has ever witnessed. As, after months of expensive publicity, shares of British Telecom finally made their debut, the market surged confidently to a peak and what must be the most unlikely takeover rumour of the year circulated.

The BT launch had all the razzmatazz expected of the world's biggest share flotation so far. And, fittingly, the opening price - 97p - was well ahead of even the most confident forecasts made as the market waited for the mid-after-

Expect news tomorrow of a link between two quoted investment trust groups. Word in the market is that a merger is on the way, but those closer suggest the two will form a new management company to handle both sets of funds, now approaching £1 billion.

noon (to coincide with Wall Street) start of trading. Harvard Securities, the licensed dealer, called the shares 85p ahead of the stock market opening.

The 97p partly paid price was held only for seconds. In hectic trading, BT fell to 92p and, as the initial flurry eased and activity settled down, held around the 93p mark.

"Absolute pandemonium" is how one dealer described the scenes which greeted the BT launch. One jobber sported a

Buzzy outfit, others wore BT "hard hats". Many were forced off the floor and onto their benches so great was the crush.

But, despite the crush, many dealers were mere spectators. Trading in the shares was not exceptionally heavy "but it was well worth while for the market staying open longer", said one dealer.

Amid all the BT excitement, the FTSE 100 index jumped 10.4 to a 1,191.7-point peak. Johnson Matthey, to be replaced in the index by BT, achieved a 5p gain to 73p.

The FT 30 share index closed 7.6 higher at 924.9 points. Both the FT 30 index and the FTSE will today include BT at a fully paid 173p starting price.

The strange takeover story involved British Petroleum and Midland Bank. Midland shares jumped 18p to 357p. Sources close to BP and Midland thought any such deal unlikely. The strength of Midland dragged other bank shares higher.

The takeover struggle at Bath & Portland Group continues, with C H Beazer last weekend sending out a correction to its offer document after falling foul of the Takeover Panel. And there is a chance of more corrections to come, with Bath & Portland's bankers, Hill Samuel, complaining of another inaccuracy and a breach of takeover rule 15 (2) in the formal offer.

Meantime, B & P's share

price slid backwards yesterday, down 17p to 268p, as some investors heard advice to take profits. C H Beazer is bidding 236p a share for the quarrying and construction group. The Beazer share price rose 2p to 374p.

Scapa Group, the engineering outfit, keeps up its strong run, rising 8p to 41p yesterday in another peak for the shares. Last week, the company revealed a 61 per cent jump in half-year profits, and said the second half should be even better.

Coin Industries, maker of slot-machine equipment, gained

Mr Peter Temple at Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, is one analyst not impressed by Whitbread's American build-up. He describes the takeover of the Buckingham Corporation as "a high risk move" and worries about the extra promotional costs the brewing group will have to incur. Whitbread was unchanged at 189p.

10p to 55p following a tip in a City newsletter. Coin came to the market back in September 1983 and has had a rough time ever since.

The shares were launched at an offer for sale price of 100p and have not seen that level for many months. The first full-year set of figures, announced two months ago, showed a heavy fall in profits and a dip in sales volume.

An investment tip also

helped Automotive Products, the car component supplier. Quilter Goodison, the stockbroker, put a buy tag on the company some days ago, and the price has subsequently moved steadily from 54p to last night's closing of 66p, having touched 68p at one stage.

Quilter now reckons the share price looks vulnerable in the short term, but still thinks the shares should be held for long-term prospects. The broker has, in fact, trimmed its profit forecast for the full year from £6 million to around £5.5 million, saying: "We've warned all along that AP wouldn't do too well in the second half, and the company will be showing the effects of the recent British Leyland strike in the year end figures".

For AE the old Associated Engineering group the car strike was better timed. With a September year-end, AE will not show the damage until the first-half figures next year.

Full year, 1983/4, figures are due next week, and City men expect a good result. Analysts are going for around £18 million at the pre-tax level, against the £5 million chalked up last time.

Wight Collins Rutherford Scott, the advertising agency, benefited from a mention in a City tip-sheet. With a narrow market in the shares, the price quickly rose 30p to 298p.

Another agency, AGB Research, kept up its strong run,

rising 7p to 254p, as observers wait for news on the takeover front. Saatchi & Saatchi, that world-famous advertising group, is thought to be watching AGB very closely.

Beer shares, preoccupied by the Bass figures on Thursday, were flat despite the 12.4 per cent increase in output in October.

Savoy Hotel's low-voting "A" shares were 4p stronger at 385p. Some market men remain convinced that a deal over Trusthouse Forte's 70 per cent plus stake is imminent.

Body Shop International, the franchise business selling a wide

Gloom deepened over Cape Industries yesterday ahead of today's interim figures. The shares traded at a record low of 55p, down 3p on the day, and market men waited for news of more losses in the group's insulation businesses. Analysts at Simon & Coates and other stockbroking firms were looking forward to nothing better than a token dividend this time beside a pre-tax loss of £500,000 or more for the nine-month period - Cape is changing to a March year-end and is giving nine rather than six-month figures.

range of beauty preparations ranging from seaweed and birch shampoo to carrot moisture cream, continued to bid for the share of the year award. Placed at 95p by Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, the shares surged a further 35p to 470p.

USM-listed Telecomputing is still benefiting from last week's better-than-forecast results. The company, which develops computer software products, estimated full-year profits of £350,000 at the time of its market debut last June. In the event the figure came out at £403,015. The shares rose 35p to 375p yesterday.

But Zygol Dynamics, which makes computer terminals and printers, got an unfriendly mention in the weekend press, and the shares slumped 25p to 50p, a long way down from the June rights issue price of 92p.

Instem Computer Systems, which joined the USM only last month at a placing price of 145p, raced another 16p up to 201p as tipsters continue to back the shares.

TEMPUS

Diversification policy pays off at Dominion

Mr Max Lewinsohn's policy of spreading Dominion International's interests and activities quite widely to avoid overdependence on one source of revenue has been amply justified. Yesterday's interim results were suitably embellished with the profit and loss equivalent of swings and roundabouts. In the final analysis, Dominion gained more on its roundabouts and pre-tax profits duly rose from £2.6 million to £3.1 million.

The big loser was the financial services division where the business linked with friendly societies was severely hit by the provisions of the Chancellor's Budget. No friendly society linked business was written off until September and, although trading is again picking up, the impact was sufficient to send divisional profits down from £1.3 million to £950,000.

There was some compensation in the shape of the good performance from the lease/purchasing business. Dominion will also be watching the progress of its 25 per cent stake in Inlex, the automated financial futures exchange. Response in the first two months of operation has been good but, as with much of Dominion's activities, the benefits lie in the future.

In the property development division, the British house-building activities had a very good first half as both volumes and margins improved. The performance was much needed since the US residential properties had a terrible time. The Houston development has been struggling to break even but it has now plunged into the red and substantial rationalization will be needed to put it back on a more profitable track.

The Natural Resources division saw pre-tax profits more than double to £1.2 million. The improvement came from the established production in the US as the benefits of the acquisition and exploration programme filtered through.

The group has extensive exploration and development interests elsewhere but there will be little contribution to profit for another three years

and once again it is a case of wait and see.

This uncertainty about the short-term growth prospects underpins the share price, down 4p to 91p yesterday. The City remains very wary about what is still a very young industrial holdings group and until it can demonstrate that the recent profits growth can be sustained, many institutional investors are not prepared to include Dominion's shares in their portfolio.

There is additional potential in both the natural resources and financial services divisions, but more tangible evidence of a contribution will be needed before the shares should be bought.

Blackwood Hodge

All the news being issued by Blackwood Hodge, the troubled earthmoving and construction equipment distributor, seems to be good at the moment.

A few days ago the group announced that its Canadian subsidiary had achieved pre-tax profits of £700,000 in the nine months to the end of September, reversing losses in the corresponding period last year of £2.1 million.

The group also revealed yesterday that it had succeeded in persuading Cummins Engine Company to pay £3.3 million, or some £300,000 more than book value, for its distributorship of Cummins products in Britain. Negotiations about the larger disposal of Cummins of the corresponding business in Australia continue.

None the less, Blackwood Hodge is still not yet out of the woods; living from day to day at the grace of its bankers and still weighed down by an enormous burden of debt.

The latest disposal will reduce net debt to around £34.5 million, which after last year's heavy write-offs is still nearly 50 per cent higher than shareholders' funds.

Moreover, the Cummins diesel engine distribution business in Britain and Australia have traditionally been quite profitable even in bad years. Blackwood is selling under duress because Cummins wants to cut out the middle

man in its business and the sale will take quite a chunk out of the group's precarious profits recovery.

So the latest developments at Blackwood Hodge leave its shares at 24p looking as speculative as ever. The group is not going to be able to trade its way out of its present predicament and will need a substantial injection of new equity at some stage if it is to survive in the long term.

Meanwhile the agreement with the bankers to keep facilities in place is up for renegotiation again in April.

Matthew Brown

In the traditional battle between the regional brewers and the majors, Matthew Brown has fared well. Inspired by a strong management, it has been expanding if not aggressively then certainly effectively in recent years. With the added attraction of its own Slaton lager, the company has earned its market rating.

Yesterday's full-year results will not have disappointed the company's followers. Pre-tax profits of £7 million were broadly in line with expectations and earnings were boosted by a tax charge lower than at the interim stage.

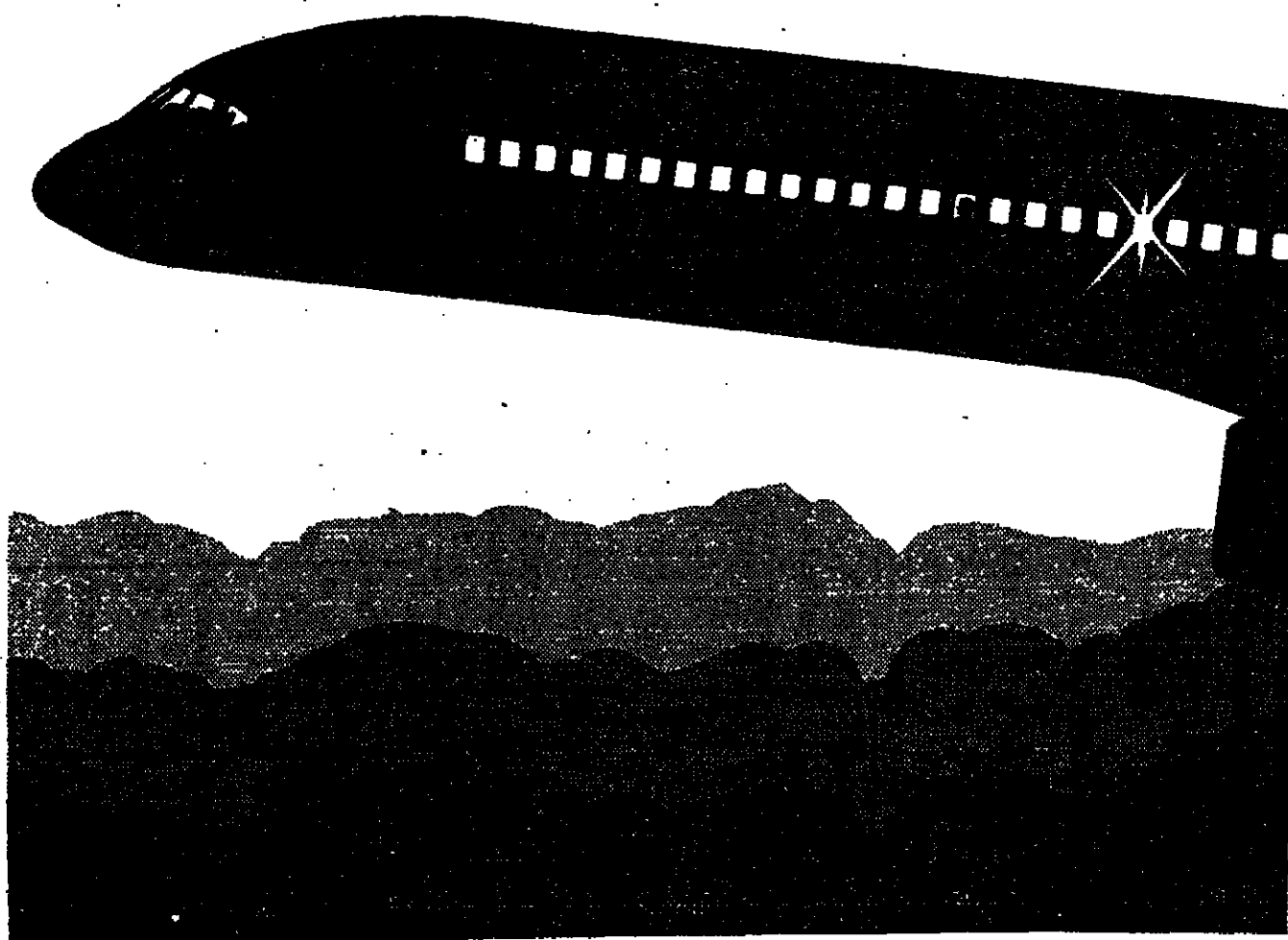
Turnover in the second half was substantially up reflecting recent acquisitions, including T and R Theakston, now safely in the fold. The profit growth has not matched this increase in sales and one of Matthew Brown's main tasks will be to improve Theakston's performance. The addition of another strong brand, name from Theakston, Old Peculier, can only help the group's cause.

The way forward now is for Matthew Brown to maintain and even expand its market share as it continues to push up volume.

With the group firmly based for further expansion the group is well placed to register further profit growth. The shares eased up 2p to 224p on the announcement of the results and in the context of a sector which seems confident at the moment, Matthew Brown looks good value.

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BRITISH AIRWAYS

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PATERSON ZOCHONIS

Highest ever profits in Centenary Year

Highlights of the year ended 31st May 1984

	1984	1983
Turnover:	£262 million	£276 million
Profit before tax:	£30.9 million	£26.9 million
Total dividend per share:	5.15p	4.75p

"Despite a year of difficult and at times, uncertain trading conditions the group in 1984 produced its highest-ever profits."

Nigeria

In Nigeria three factors benefitted the group. Firstly, a four year £100 million capital expenditure programme to increase local manufacturing capacity had reached completion; secondly, the Nigerian Government, having classified soaps and detergents as essential commodities, provided the requisite import licenses for raw materials and spare parts; thirdly, the group continued its policy of financing adequate levels of its raw material and other import requirements. Operations in Nigeria thus made a significant contribution to the Government's efforts to alleviate shortages and also produced higher profits.

Cussons

The contribution of the Cussons group showed an improvement over the previous year with Australia and Kenya reporting their highest profits to date.

In the United Kingdom Cussons' results continued to be depressed by the slow recovery of manufacturing performance and by higher raw material prices.

Other operations

The performance of other group operations overseas was generally satisfactory apart from Greece, where results have been adversely affected by increasingly harsh price controls.

PATERSON ZOCHONIS PLC, BRIDGEWATER HOUSE, 60 WHITWORTH STREET, MANCHESTER M1 6LU.

Africa • United Kingdom & Europe • Australia & Far East



THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your right share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have a new dividend or a share of the total daily price money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	INDUSTRIALS A-D	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Bidco	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Dalton	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Decca	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Chrysler Int	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Rockley McConnell	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	Berford (SW)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Brown John	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Booth	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Connaught	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	100.00	99.00	Bredon & Coud Hill	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	100.00	99.00	Turner	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13	100.00	99.00	Tarmac	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	100.00	99.00	Barratt Devs	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	100.00	99.00	Centri-Roadstone	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16	100.00	99.00	Carri (H) Doncaster	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	100.00	99.00	Test	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	100.00	99.00	Leitch Williams	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	100.00	99.00	BPR Industries	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20	100.00	99.00	DRAPERY & STORES	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21	100.00	99.00	Griffin	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22	100.00	99.00	W. W. Group	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23	100.00	99.00	Freemantle	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24	100.00	99.00	Menzies (John)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25	100.00	99.00	Stobart	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26	100.00	99.00	Four Seasons	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27	100.00	99.00	Prior Stores	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	100.00	99.00	Empire Stores	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29	100.00	99.00	Milner Leasing	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30	100.00	99.00	GUS	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31	100.00	99.00	ELECTRICIAN	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32	100.00	99.00	Convalite	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33	100.00	99.00	RIT	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34	100.00	99.00	Online Investments	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35	100.00	99.00	Ford Fash Ele	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
36	100.00	99.00	En-Signals & Control	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
37	100.00	99.00	Ferranti	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
38	100.00	99.00	Grosvenor	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
39	100.00	99.00	CASE	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
40	100.00	99.00	VII Investments	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
41	100.00	99.00	Penta	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Weekly Dividend					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	SHORTS (Under Five Years)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Five to Ten Years	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Ten to Fifteen Years	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Over Fifteen Years	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BREWERIES

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Adnams	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Brewery	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Guinness	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Heineken	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	King	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Labatt	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Miller	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Stout	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Bank of England	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Bank of Ireland	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Bank of Scotland	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Bank of Wales	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Bank of Cyprus	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Bank of Greece	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	Bank of Italy	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Bank of France	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Bank of Germany	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Bank of Japan	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

ELECTRICIANS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Electricity Board	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Electricity Board	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Electricity Board	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Electricity Board	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Electricity Board	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares at new peak

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 26. Dealings End, Dec 7. Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Adnams	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Brewery	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Guinness	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Heineken	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	King	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Labatt	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Miller	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Stout	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Adnams	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Brewery	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Guinness	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Heineken	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	King	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Labatt	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Miller	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Stout	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FINANCE AND LAND

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Adnams	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Brewery	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Guinness	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Heineken	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	King	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Labatt	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Miller	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Stout	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

FOODS

1984	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	Div	Yld	P/E
1	100.00	99.00	Adnams	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	100.00	99.00	Beck's	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	100.00	99.00	Brewery	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	100.00	99.00	Carlsberg	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	100.00	99.00	Guinness	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	100.00	99.00	Heineken	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	100.00	99.00	King	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	100.00	99.00	Labatt	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	100.00	99.00	Miller	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	100.00	99.00	Stout	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

HOTELS AND CATERERS

165	119	Realt	125	..	2.8	18	15.6
165	119	Shawmut	125	..	2.8	18	15.6
175	107	Seacoast Plastic	70	+2	3.3	3	18.4
175	107	Seacoast Plastic	70	+2	3.3	3	18.4
69	38	Yorkshire Chem	62	+3	1.96	29	18.7

CINEMAS AND TV							
198	193	Anglia TV A	175	..	10.7	61	14.7
114	68	Quintess	68	..	8.8	7.2	58
198	193	ITV NTV	175	..	10.7	61	14.7
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FINANCIAL SERVICES

Debtor nations climb a down escalator

By Stephen Lewis

Falling interest rates and a slowdown in US growth are creating new problems in the less developed countries

Interest rates are falling in America. This should be good news for borrowers of dollars everywhere, and possibly for borrowers of other currencies as well if central banks in Europe and Japan take advantage of lower US rates to ease their own credit policies.

Historically, high interest rates have contributed to a worldwide surge in debt servicing costs since the US Federal Reserve, in October 1979, accorded an overriding priority to curbing inflation. The Fed's policy has imposed a heavy burden on borrowers, especially those who are not beneficiaries of extensive US domestic tax breaks.

One group of borrowers has been hit hard by tight money policies in the industrial countries. These are the sovereign borrowers of the non-Opec (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) less developed country (LDC) area. The Organization of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has produced a detailed survey, "Extended Debt of Developing Countries", of the non-Opec LDC debt situation. This estimates that external debt interest payments increased by almost 250 per cent between 1978 and 1983.

Part of this increase can be attributed to the growth in these countries' total outstanding debt, which rose by more than 100 per cent over the 1978-83 period. The remaining increase reflected the impact of higher interest rates and a widening of interest spreads against borrowers. Furthermore, non-Opec LDC debt would not have risen so steeply if borrowers had not been confronted with the sharp upturn in their interest bills which threatened to deplete their foreign exchange holdings. In 1983, there was some slight easing in the financial pressures on the non-Opec

LDCs consequent on a decline in US interest rates from the summer 1982 peak, although the burden remained heavy. The OECD calculates the saving to these borrowers last year, solely as a result of the interest rate decline, at \$9 billion.

The survey says: "This major reduction in interest costs was particularly crucial for the major debt-problem countries. Indeed, in retrospect it seems difficult to imagine that their debt problems could have remained manageable in 1983 without the fall in floating interest rates."

With each percentage point cut in interest rates "saving" more than \$2 billion of non-Opec LDC external interest payments in a full year, other things being equal, the further fall in dollar interest rates which has occurred since September holds out the promise of some amelioration in these countries' plight.

However, their financial managers must have the feeling that they are running up a down escalator. Even in those years, as in 1983, when interest rates fell, the increase in their outstanding debt, in part the result of capitalization of interest arrears, adds to their interest bill faster than the decline in interest rates reduces it.

The OECD estimates that a fall of 2½ percentage points in average interest rates would have been needed between last year and this to offset the impact on the non-Opec LDC interest bill of the increase in these countries' debt which has occurred over the past year.

In fact, US dollar short-term interest rates so far this year have averaged 1½ per cent, down from 1983 as the US Federal Reserve responded to the strong US economic expansion in the spring by tightening its credit stance. A rise in the non-Opec LDC interest burden is virtually assured for this year, with the upward trend in their interest payments set to persist into 1985. The most recent decline in US interest rates will slow this process but has so far signally failed to reverse it. The reduction in US interest rates is, therefore, likely to be

Latin American trade and debt exposures					
	Total exports \$ bn	To US%	To industrial countries %	Outstanding debt (\$ bn)	Interest due (\$ bn)
Argentina	7.9	9.4	40.0	43	4.2
Brazil	21.9	23.2	62.3	94	10.2
Chile	3.8	28.3	74.5	19	2.0
Colombia	3.1	29.0	78.5	11	1.0
Mexico	21.2	68.1	85.8	90	12.0
Peru	3.3	33.3	88.5	13	1.2
Venezuela	18.2	29.1	55.9	35	4.2

*1983 tend-1983 Sources: IMF Direction of Trade Statistics 1984 and P & D estimates.

given no more than a muted welcome by the non-Opec LDC debtors and their captive creditors, the commercial banks. Their hopes will be further dampened when they consider that the fall in nominal US interest rates has by no means been matched by a similar decline in the real interest burden.

After three successive months in which US producer prices have fallen, it is not surprising that many US commentators who had been looking for an upturn in inflation in 1985 are now expecting inflation to be stable next year at about the present rate. With inflation expectations being revised downwards, nominal interest rates have subsided, but the real cost of borrowing is broadly unchanged.

Interest rates have subsided but the real cost of borrowing is broadly unchanged

Moreover, steep borrowing costs appear at long last to be restraining the rate of expansion of US economic activity. The growth rate of US real gdp slowed to 1.9 per cent in the third quarter of 1984. There has been little evidence of a pick-up in activity in the October statistics. In one respect, the US slowdown is a healthy development because it will help to curb US demand for imported goods and bring about, at the least, some deceleration in the rate at which the US balance of payments current account deficit is widening.

Nevertheless, for the non-Opec LDCs it is a decidedly unhealthy turn of events, dependent as many of them are

on exports to the United States and to the other industrial countries. If the cooling of the US economy is not offset by a powerful upturn in the economies of the other industrial countries, the trading positions for the non-Opec LDCs are likely to worsen.

The table shows the export totals of the seven leading debtor-countries in Latin America, together with the proportions of their exports going to the United States and to industrial countries and the amount of their outstanding debt and interest payments. Of the countries listed in the table, Colombia and Venezuela stand out as having rather large exports relative to their debt interest payments, with a significant proportion of their exports going to the United States. These are the countries which stand to lose out most, in relative terms, from the present combination of a weakening US economy and declining US interest rates. Their absolute position, however, is more secure than that of some other Latin American countries.

Mexico, for example, not only starts from a position where its debt is more than four times its annual exports but also is dependent for more than half of these exports on the US market. Consequently, while the Mexican debt rescheduling agreement in September represented a significant step in the ordered treatment of the international debt problem, the terms of the agreement might well be severely tested if the US

economy fails to provide a buoyant market for Mexican exports, which chiefly comprise energy products.

Argentina, by contrast with Mexico, has a low exposure to US markets. Indeed, Argentina's exports to the Eastern bloc (23 per cent of its total exports in 1983) far exceed its export sales to the United States. The proportion of Argentina's exports going to the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries, is rising rapidly, having been as low as 8 per cent in 1979.

This may well have been a significant factor reducing the leverage of Western creditors over Argentina. Of the Latin American countries which have sought debt rescheduling, Argentina is the only one which has yet to submit finally to some form of creditor surveillance of its economic policies.

There has been a reduction in international debt tensions since the summer when it was feared that the Latin American government leaders, gathered at Cartagena, Colombia, might move towards the formation of a "debtors' cartel." International bankers are entitled to take some satisfaction from having defused this threat, at least for the time being, through their support for long-term rescheduling arrangements for the main non-Opec LDC debtors. The recent decline in US interest rates, will also give marginal relief to the debtors.

Nevertheless, the slowdown in the US economy will make it much more difficult for the LDCs to sustain their exports. This, in turn, could endanger the balance of payments assumptions on which rescheduling packages have been based.

A slowdown in the US economy will make the world's debtor countries more strident in their calls for a radical approach to solving their debt problems.

The author is a partner in the stockbroking firm of Phillips & Drew.

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42-44 Doltun Street
London SE1 0UQ
01-928 2661

CHARTERHALL

Year of Record Profits

Mr Derek G Williams, Chairman and Chief Executive of Charterhall PLC, the U.K. based independent oil group, made the following principal points to shareholders at the Annual General Meeting held in London on 30th November, 1984.

- Substantial increase in Profits - Dividend doubled.
- Participation in Ninth Round of U.K. Offshore Licensing.
- Active U.K. Offshore exploration programme over next 12 months.
- Formation of Bidding Group in preparation for First Round of U.K. Onshore Licensing.
- 18 new producing oil wells in North America this year.
- 3 well exploration programme planned for listed Australian subsidiary over next six months.
- Exploration and production assets up by 80 per cent at £27 million.

Copies of the 1984 Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Charterhall PLC, Sutherland House, Brighton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5BA.

Technology boost for Strathclyde

By Our City Staff

A scheme which pays up to 80 per cent of the cost of retraining workers whose companies introduce new technologies is being developed by Strathclyde Regional Council.

Eight companies are now having 158 staff trained at a cost of £233,000. A further 70 companies have applied to join the scheme.

The assistance is available to firms in Strathclyde with up to 500 employees, but if trainers are under 25 there is no limit to the size of the company. The £750,000 cost is being shared by the council and the European Social Fund.

The companies which have been helped include Glenfleck and Kennedy of Kilmarnock. Its managing director, Mr Denis Richmond, said: "A total of 115 employees will gain new skills during our two-year training programme. Strathclyde will provide financial assistance towards the cost of 20 of these employees each year. "Without the help it would have taken more than three years to train each employee in new skills from the internal revenues generated by the company."

Mr Charles Foskett of British Leyland's Albion Plant in Scotstoun, Glasgow, said: "We are embarking on a major investment programme in the coming year involving the purchase of a number of computer numerically controlled machines and other facilities."

"The grant has enabled us to provide quality training

Gerald Ronson honoured

Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, was yesterday named 1984 "Businessman of the Year."

The award, sponsored by Hambros Bank in aid of joint British cancer charities, was presented at a lunch attended by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and leading personalities from industry, commerce and the City.

The citation praises Mr Ronson's "vision, determination and sheer hard work" in bringing Heron from modest beginnings to become "one of the largest and most influential private companies in Europe."

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Position _____
Tel. No. _____

AES

By Jeremy Warner

The course of Suter's bid for

Suter later revised down its cash alternative offer to 132p a share and made a new share offer worth 11 of its shares for every 10 Francis shares. Suter said at the time that an estimated £350,000 shortfall on the profits forecast of not less than £2.35 million for 1984, should be rejected in the value of its offer.

APPOINTMENTS

Mintex: Mr J. V. Bedford has been appointed managing director and chief executive.

Lloyds Bank: Mr P J Barean has been made a general manager in the group headquarters.

British Airways takes new image on board for trip into the nineties



British Airways asked people what they wanted. It has consumer councils all around the world and more than two dozen working groups representing all employees. It also

Whoever ultimately designs the new uniforms will have to produce a wearable concept — one that can be adapted for winter or summer and for local routings. British Airways has found, for example, that Indian passengers appreciate the Indian cabin crew wearing saris.

Costain's increased involvement in the Far East follows a recent decision to trim its activities in Canada. Its 45 per cent stake in its Canadian offshoot is being sold to raise around £23-million.

The Rumasa group made a loss of 9 billion Pesetas (£44 million) last year.

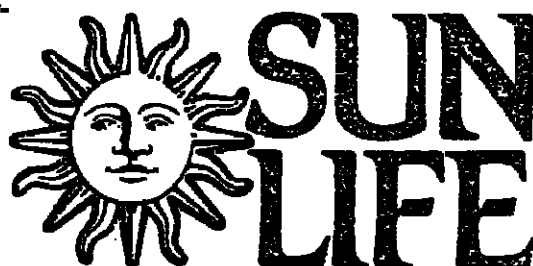
In a year which has seen famine sweep Africa, wheat and coarse grain production and demand for grains given under the Food Aid Convention have reached record quantities, the International Wheat Council reports.

The council, an international secretariat which monitors world cereal supply and demand on behalf of its member countries, estimates that wheat production this year will total 509 million tonnes. Output in 1983 was 496 million tonnes.

Farmers are also reckoned to have grown 789 million tonnes of coarse grains - barley, oats, rye and maize - compared with 690 million tonnes last year. The council says the outlook for 1983's harvests is also good.

The size of the harvest has enabled producing countries to give a record 10.4 million tonnes under the Food Aid Convention.

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Year ended		Half year ended	Half year ended
24.3.84		28.9.84	28.9.83
£'000		£'000	£'000
47,342	Gross income from property	25,626	23,923
151,734	Turnover of service industry division	80,108	71,782
199,076		106,734	95,715
19,144	Net income from property division	10,852	9,324
10,536	Net income from service industry division	4,442	3,229
1,491	Income from investments	2,366	720
31,171		17,660	13,273
(14,162)	Interest payable less receivable	(7,544)	(7,783)
17,009	Profit before profit share and taxation	10,116	5,490
(553)	Employee profit share (note 1)	—	—
16,456	Profit before taxation	10,116	5,490
(4,609)	Taxation (note 2)	(2,348)	(997)
11,847		7,768	4,493
(37)	Minority interests	(62)	(38)
11,810		7,706	4,455
7,439	Capital profits less losses (note 2)	2,050	6,143
(7,439)	Transferred to capital reserve	(2,050)	(6,143)
11,810		7,706	4,455
(2,663)	Preference dividend	(1,310)	(1,310)
(3,549)	Ordinary dividend (note 4)	(2,003)	(1,138)
5,598		4,393	2,007
2.59p	Earnings per ordinary share	1.60p	0.90p

	£'000
Surplus of sale proceeds over original cost of property less taxation	2,953
Other items, including capital expenditure on exhibition centres written off	(903)
	<u>2,050</u>

Notes: The above surplus on sale of properties includes attributable valuation surpluses previously taken up in capital reserve of £2,226,000.

4. The directors have declared the payment of an interim ordinary dividend of 0.5p net (1983: 0.325p net), in respect of the year to 24 March 1985. Warrants will be despatched on 25 January 1985 to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on 14 December 1984.

5. The abridged profit and loss account for the year to 24 March 1984 is an extract from the latest published accounts for the Company which have been delivered to the registrar of companies.

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A major force in British Life

What the re
they looked

By Ralph Rabe: 1992

the fact that the 1980s have been a decade of "renewal" for the American film industry. The industry has been able to recoup its losses from the 1970s by producing a large number of films that have been both critically and commercially successful. This has been achieved through a variety of factors, including the rise of the independent film movement, the resurgence of the auteur theory, and the increasing importance of the film festival circuit. The industry has also been able to recoup its losses by producing a large number of films that have been both critically and commercially successful. This has been achieved through a variety of factors, including the rise of the independent film movement, the resurgence of the auteur theory, and the increasing importance of the film festival circuit.

Commode

[illegible]

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Edited by MATTHEW MAY

Law of the keyboard: page 24

Maxi-help from the micro: page 25



Winners from left to right - Lisa Israel, Computer Journalist of the Year (news); Paul Chave, Computer Photographer of the Year; Peter Jackson, editor of *Microscope*, Computer Journal of the Year; Jim Dunsie, art director of *PC Magazine*; Best Designed Computer Journal of the Year; and Caroline Berman, Computer Journalist of the Year (features).

Our first Press award winners

The first UK Computer Press Awards, sponsored by *The Times* and Hewlett-Packard, were announced at a Claridges dinner last Tuesday by Jan Leeming, BBC news reader, to an audience of 140 leading industry figures, publishers and editors. The awards were started this year in recognition of a British computer press that has expanded to such a size that it exerts a very real influence not only in business and industry but also in the home.

The managing director of *The Times*, William Gillespie and David Baldwin, managing director of Hewlett-Packard, who both presented the awards, emphasised the importance of establishing standards of quality and excellence in each of the five categories.

Winner of the Computer Journal of the Year category was *Microscope*, a fortnightly magazine for the microcomputer industry, published by Sportsman Specialist Press. Editor Peter Jackson collected

the award for his journal which was selected by the judges because of a very effective combination of news and feature stories, good design, strong photographs and excellent overall presentation.

Computing and Personal Computer News were the other finalists in this category which had over 90 journals that could have qualified.

Lisa Israel, a reporter with *Computer News* received the award for Computer Journalist of the Year (news). Her three front-page lead stories on the plans by IBM and British Telecom to establish a joint communications service were praised as well-researched, well-presented and well followed-through.

Computer Journalist of the Year for features writing went to Caroline Berman of *Computing* for three features which, in the opinion of the judges, were topical, interesting and covered important issues. They included features on rogue computer training schools and how companies make money from computer scrap.

The journal which was selected as the Best Designed Computer Journal of the Year was *PC Magazine* which according to David Driver, Design Editor of *The Times* and one of the judges, was visually exciting, had an effective use of headlines, typography and illustrations and stood out in a category where the overall standard was surprisingly high.

The final category was Computer Photographer of the Year with entries from both freelance and staff photographers operating within the computing field. Freelance Paul Chave's winning entry was a multi-exposure picture of an aircraft cockpit mixed with a flight simulator described by one of the judges as a photo that would stand out in any photographic competition.

Prizes in the awards included two HP110 portable computers with Thinkjet printers for the individual journalist awards, cases of champagne for the winning journal and £1,000 of camera equipment for the photographic award. All the winners also received an inscribed plaque.

The strong response by computer journals and journalists entering the first UK Computer Press Awards convinced both *The Times* and Hewlett-Packard that it will become an annual event.

Plastic people and giant TVs: Japan's view of 2000

Tokyo
An electronic notice board above the bus station in Shinjuku in the centre of Tokyo tells the waiting shoppers how long, to the second, they will need to wait before Japan's technological exhibition Expo 85 is launched next March. The shoppers are not surprised by the precision and neither is the rest of the world; they have come to expect it.

The last few weeks have been of significant importance to the Japanese society in its attempts to maintain that reputation. Japan, which for so long has been accused of developing technologies derived by others, is attempting to take the lead internationally and share research.

An international conference last month was hosted by Japan's Institute for New Generation Computer Technology (ICOT), the coordinating force behind the country's project to develop the so-called fifth-generation computer. Computers that will reason with the same mental processes as the human brain have been the envy of computer scientists for decades and of science fiction for as long. However, the Japanese intend to develop them by the end of the decade and are prepared to spend more than £300 million on the fundamentals. The ICOT scientists have already developed one machine which is capable of "reasoning" and another which has a data base founded on relationships between data, similar to the thought mechanisms of the human mind. They are far from being perfect but they represent the first significant steps towards the reasoning computer.

But the barriers which Japan is preparing to leap are not all technological. It, like the other developed nations which

attended the ICOT two-day conference realise that there will be as many social problems to solve as technical ones. That is why the Expo 85 show is important. It will exhibit to the world how the Japanese have been able to harness all the modern technology for the benefit of its people and will act as a forum to educate the Japanese who are not familiar with the latest advances. Despite their success in the electronics and computer fields, the Japanese are no more equipped to deal with the changes imposed by the computer age than is any other nation. They do, however, have an advantage. They recognise the problems and in true Japanese fashion are addressing themselves to them. Hence the importance of the spring exhibition.

About £2,000 million has been devoted to the project. On a 250-acre site in Tsukuba, the Japanese science city, the month exhibition will attempt to attract 20 million people. The theme is "dwellings and surroundings - science and technology for man at home".

Like the ICOT project, it is meant to attract the attention of the world. The location is ideal for that purpose. Tsukuba Science City is a complex of about six towns 40 miles north-east of Tokyo. It embraces two universities, 31 government research institutes, six government enterprise facilities and seven private research institutes. The exhibition will be housed in the centre of this complex. The 41 countries and

the 38 international organisations that have already committed themselves to visit and play a significant part in the exhibition will be exposed to Japan's idea of the computer age in the twenty-first century.

The NEC corporation and Fujitsu plan to install large television projectors and computers to show the new role to be played by these electronic machines in the next century and how they will have significant impact on even the most modest existence.

Sony will also demonstrate the advances made in television. The company has erected a gigantic (25 x 40 metres) television screen with resolution higher than home colour television sets. The technology is fundamental to public displays of computer-based information in the twenty-first century, which by

fabrics and designed to be pleasing to the human eye.

About 50 of these computer-controlled robots will entertain and welcome the visitors to the Fuyo robot theatre at the exhibition. The Fuyo group is a partnership of Japanese companies coordinated by the Fuyo Bank. One of the main technical advisers to the computer robot project has been Canon, the office equipment and camera designers.

Nobuyoshi Asai, the secretary general of the Fuyo project, wants to attract the microcomputer generation of today to the robot show. It is they who will run the twenty-first century. The robots will perform to a potential audience of 1,000 at a time. Each of their movements and positions will be controlled by a minute electronic navigation system.

The robot show, like the exhibition, is meant to be entertaining, but the theme is more serious. It reflects the issues which all of the developed nations will need to address in the coming decade.

Professor Gene Gregory, at the Institute of Comparative Culture at Sofia University in Tokyo, has been studying this phenomenon and in a paper outlining the Japanese approach to innovation, he concluded: "Increased wealth creation depends on improved technology. It follows automatically and necessarily that those enterprises which adopt as their central purpose maximising value added in production will ultimately succeed in the measure that they effectively and efficiently manage technological advance".

Computers are at the forefront of that added value. Applications are the most important feature of the Japanese computer controlled robots of the next century.

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone
Technology Correspondent

What the retailers said when they looked at the Spectrum

By Ralph Bancroft

The Sinclair Spectrum, one of Britain's top-selling home micros, has taken a hammering in a micro reliability survey. The No. 1 seller, the Commodore 64, has fared much better. Retailers said that more than 25 per cent of Spectrums sold were returned to the shops. Most of these were confirmed as faulty. The only leading micro to come out of the survey - relatively unscathed - were the Acorn Electron, BBC micro and Amstrad. Their return rates were all around 5 per cent.

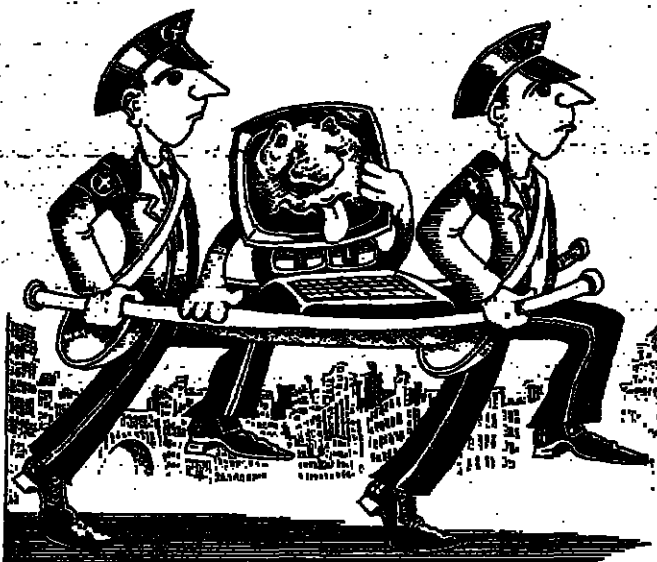
The survey, by Business Decisions, questioned a cross section of 100 retail outlets, including branches of High Street multiples such as Boots and W. H. Smith as well as independent retailers. It was held in October on behalf of Aspect Advertising, Acorn's advertising agency. Even taking into account any bias that may have crept in (for example, only retailers that sold at least one of Acorn's products were included in the survey) the figures it came up with tell a depressing tale.

The survey found the proportions of micros returned in the last six months were Spectrum 25.4 per cent, Commodore 64 13%, Amstrad 5%, BBC micro 5%, Electron 4%.

Three-quarters of the returns were because of faulty machines, while the remainder were because of customer dissatisfaction.

The figures compare unfavourably with those quoted by the manufacturers themselves. In the run-up to Christmas last year the percentage of returns claimed by manufacturers during the warranty period was Sinclair 5%, Commodore under 1%, Acorn under 5%.

Returns to retailers could be expected to be higher than the



number of machines sent back to the manufacturer because retailers are often able to put faults right themselves. Even so there would appear to be a wide disparity between the results of the survey and the figures put out by the manufacturers.

Sinclair doubts the figures produced in the survey. An official said: "To comment properly we would need to study the report in detail. Our own return rates are very substantially lower, well over 40 per cent of computers received by us from retailers have been found with no faults."

Commodore said that it would prefer to see more of the survey before making a full comment.

The advertising for home computers often conveys the impression that they can do all sorts of wonderful things at the press of a button and helps account for the 25 per cent of computers returned because of dissatisfaction rather than technical faults. Many buyers found

that having just bought a micro, they then had to buy a cassette player or disc drive before they could do anything with it - which seemed like buying a car only to discover that wheels were extra.

The British microcomputer industry has had it easy. But, as the levels of returns to shops and the number of computers gathering dust in toy cupboards and wardrobes bear testament, the golden days are over.

As the computer market has matured so has the buying public. A manufacturer in any other line of business would soon disappear if its products had dissatisfaction rates similar to those quoted.

The British companies have perhaps a year in which to get their house in order. Otherwise, they could find themselves going the same way as the motorcycle, hi-fi, television and video industries as the Japanese continue their own entry into the home computer market.

Commodore's US victory

From Geoff Wheelwright, Vancouver

The volatile North American home computer market has yet to recover from the shock of last year's Christmas price war.

To the victor the spoils - the victor, in this case being Commodore, and they are a lot smaller than they were at Christmas 1983. The home computer, as a fad phenomena which fuelled the American market last year, seems to have largely run out of steam with micros now having to justify themselves in the same way as any other home appliance.

These justifications are based on price, performance or both. Commodore, which is widely selling its 64 micro at close to \$200 (£164) is pretty much unchallenged on price in the lower end of the market while IBM, with its refurbished and more compatible \$1,000 (£830) plus PC Junior, is tackling the higher end performance section of the market.

Apple running pretty close to IBM in that section, with advertising budgets for the Macintosh which seem to run as

high as any Californian Redwood tree, and Apple's IIc providing a surprisingly popular extension in the life of the IIe market.

Coleco Adam, Tandy's ever ageing colour computer, and Jack Tramiel's cut price Atari computers provide three of the few alternatives to Commodore. This massive shakeout seems to have come about just as much because of an identifiable change in attitude towards micro-computers as because of the suicidal price war in 1983.

Either a home computer is a toy - in which case it has to be good for gaming and cost very little (hence the supremacy of the 64) or a home computer is a working tool in which case it has to be able to handle a variety of sophisticated business tasks and probably be compatible with the office computer (hence the resurgence of interest in the quasi-compatible PC Junior).

This new realism has made it tough for anyone to introduce a machine - in the vast price canyon which now lies between the Macintosh PC Junior

market and the 64 market. One of the few existing machines swimming around in that gap is Apple's IIc - which still remains a big seller due to a huge existing software base.

Unlike the UK, where names like Acorn, Sinclair, MSX and Amstrad are heavily advertised in what is still a healthy competition, home computer advertising in North America seems to have fallen off heavily. Commodore seems quite happy with its position as market leader, and Apple and IBM are doing the only appreciable advertising in their attempt to grab the serious home user.

IBM's PC-Junior advertising campaign and marketing strategy are particularly interesting as they seem to have grabbed a leaf from Apple's book. In addition, to introducing a real typewriter style keyboard for the machine, IBM has also added a mouse option to the PC-Junior and offers a colour painting program that looks very much like the matt paint for the Macintosh.

Dubbed "colour paint" the continued on page 25

What on earth would you call software designed by businessmen for businessmen, so easy to use that most customers start using it right away, that is designed specifically for business and financial planning and forecasting, that prints out a boardroom quality management report, that the trade press recognise as a major breakthrough, that sets new standards for speed and ease of use, is backed by one of the world's most respected newspapers and available for just £395 to run on IBM, Apricot, Sirius and other leading personal computers?

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How the temp moved up

It was the typewriter that first took women into office work. Nearly a century later, opportunities in the new technology are luring them away.

This was also the pattern among speakers at a conference in London of the Industrial Society to tell women about the new careers, with practice demonstrations on Commodore micro-computers.

Jane Joslin graduated in law at 21 and then became a temp. This led to a managerial job in the specialized field of providing computerized financial data to people investing in the stock market.

Ten years ago Jane's job did not exist, but her department has grown rapidly from three to 16, ranging from a PhD and an archaeology graduate to people with experience of business, banking, stockbroking. Personality and ability to communicate were more important, she said, than keyboard or computer knowledge.

Sally Appleby was a secretary until a word processor arrived in the office. She was "totally hooked." Soon she was super-

JOB SCENE

By Sally Watts

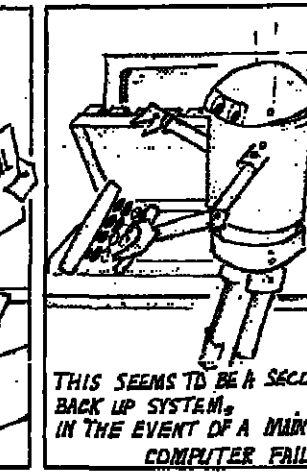
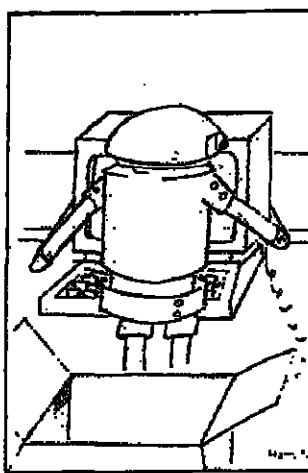
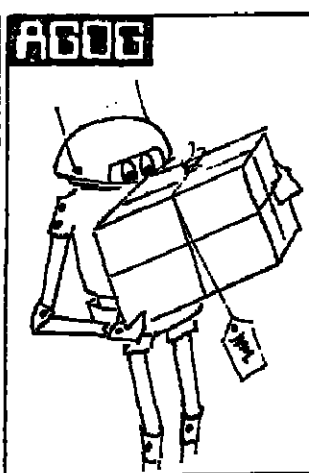
using WP staff, then worked with systems and is now in customer support, with good pay and a company car.

She demonstrates equipment at exhibitions and in offices. Hence, companies choose the technology best suited to their needs, is involved with installation and training staff to use it, and takes her turn at manning the "hot line" for irate customers.

"My best asset is a logical mind. If something goes wrong I sit down and work out why," Sally said. Adaptability, an inquiring mind, plus ability to sell, organize and cope with pressure are also necessary. "Support is a big job of the future, but you don't see it advertised so send in CVs and sell yourself."

This element of chance was brought out by Aileen Bradley and Gail Wellington who work in sales/marketing and design/development of micro-computers. This young, dynamic industry has no established career patterns or qualifications.

"Doors are opening all the time. Companies don't mind whether you are a man or a woman. If you are good you will get ahead quickly or be stolen by another company - there are just not enough good people."



THIS SEEMS TO BE A SECONDARY BACK UP SYSTEM, IN THE EVENT OF A MAIN COMPUTER FAILURE.

For the first-time user of a small-business micro, one of the most time-consuming and confusing tasks is wading through hundreds of jargon-filled user manuals, dealing with the gleaming new hardware, accompanied by all of the attractive "free" software. Sanyo, who are currently aiming hard at the new user with its M80 computer and souped-up "dash 2" models, have come up with a new teach-yourself giveaway package, which should make life simpler for the novice.

Getting started, the self-tuition package consists of two audio tapes, a data disc and reference booklet, which take the user through the basic steps needed to start working with some of the software bundled with the micro, such as Wordstar, Calstar and Reporter. The audio tapes are synchronized with the speed of the operating system, and used with the demo-data disc, let the operator start work almost immediately. It will be given away free with all new machines, and those who have already bought Sanyo machines will be supplied with a pack on application.

China calling

Advanced direct-dialling telephone systems are to be installed in all Chinese coastal cities open to foreign investment within two years as part of the republic's effort to bring its post and telecommunications up to date by the end of this century. The project, already installed in Fuzhou, capital of Fujian Province, will operate in Xiamen from the end of the year and in all other cities, including Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, by 1985, and six others in 1986. Residents

Learning to love the micro jargon

COMPUTER BRIEFING

of Tianjin, Shanghai, Zhuhai and Fuzhou can now dial directly to cities throughout China and the rest of the world. The ministry of telecommunications is to install telegraph machines for individual customers in all special economic zones and designated open cities next year.

Austrian research

A large-scale programme for research into new developments in micro-electronics, to be subsidised by the Austrian federal government, has been initiated. Twelve fields of research are to be covered, in the course of which areas will be explored which it is hoped will furnish innovations of both technical and economic interest. These fields include semiconductor technology, micro-processors, communications science, computer graphics and the processing of measurement data. Subsidies are to go to Austrian enterprises which collaborate with recognised research institutes and which, at the same time, take into consideration social factors.

Buzzing Bell

Bel Canada International is expanding its activities in Europe

by moving into the potentially lucrative European independent computer maintenance market. The company, part of Bell Canada, the telecommunications, energy and printing conglomerate, has acquired General Computer Systems (GCS) one of Britain's leading computer maintenance firms. The British company has introduced a number of successful marketing concepts, including "Bus Stop", which brings computer repair to the High Street, and "Transnet", a customs and engineering service for overseas companies exporting computers to Europe.

As a result of the broadening of its activities GCS has had a compound annual growth of 35 per cent over the last three years, but despite its increased growth, was short of capital to finance further expansion and was on the point of seeking a listing on the UK when the BCI approach came.

Auto recipes

A computerised recipe service for food shops has been introduced in Sweden by KF, the Swedish Cooperative Union and Wholesale Society. Now being tested in one of Scandinavia's coop stores, the system is expected to

be extended to some 100 retail outlets throughout the country after proper evaluation. Connected to the KF data centre in Stockholm, the equipment in the grocery store consists of a push-button keypad, a display and a printer. After pressing the start button, the customer is offered 12 groups of foodstuffs on the display: meat dishes, fish dishes, sandwiches, desserts and beverages, and, through a series of numeral key selections, arrive at the chosen dish in a matter of seconds. If the customer so desires, he or she can obtain a neatly printed recipe, complete with instructions.

UK events

Electron & BBC Users' Show, New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, SW1, Thursday to Sunday (061-458 8383). CAD/CAM International Show, NEC, Birmingham, January 8-10 (01-457 3889). Which Computer?, NEC, Birmingham, January 15-16 (01-891 5051). Micro Show, Leisure Centre, Swansea, January 17-19 (0202-304641). High Technology & Computer Education, Barbican, London, January 23-25 (01-330 1612). Applecot & Sirius Computers Show, Kensington Town Hall, London, February 5-7. International Trade Show for Home Computers and Software, LET, Olympia, London, February 17-19 (0832 777000).

Overseas events

Mini/Micro Computer Exhibition and Conference, Stockholm, Sweden, January 13-16. Computer Exhibition - Computer Thai, Bangkok, Thailand, January 23-26. Compiled by Personal Computer News.

What makes a good processing manager?

Question: Could you give a profile of a good data processing manager?

Answer: A manager of any speciality still has to be a competent manager and this rule applies to computer specialists. However, there are some points to avoid. One of the main failings of computing people is to grow stronger roots than visible branches. By this I mean that competence in a tricky technology should not prevent a good data processing manager from understanding the policies being forged in the highest reaches of the organisation.

There is a great need for computing people to operate in the risk taking parts of any business. They show that (supported by the newer forms of computing) they can participate in improving systems as well as formalising systems. There will always be a shortage of people who can cover all the span of desirable characteristics in a data processing manager.

Not such a silly idea

To my consternation, I have learnt that my daughter is already writing programs which are too large to run on the BBC Micro at her school. Since I was intending to buy her such a machine for home use I am asking if this idea is now a foolish one?

Probably not. Your daughter is very likely writing programs with more enthusiasm than skill. Some study of the ways in which these programs can be compacted will probably resolve the problem. It is true, of course, that the standard "vanilla" model of the BBC is cramped for main store. However, there are several ways of expanding the unit.

It might be worth considering the purchase of a "compiler" to translate BASIC statements into machine code form. You should be warned that programming enthusiasts can always consume as much storage space as is available, since the rule is that their ambitions expand to consume resources completely.

Puzzled by Japanese

As a regular user of databases I am puzzled to hear that the Japanese are building "database machines" in the Fifth Generation computer project. What are they trying to do that is new?

First, overall system performance is improved if a special purpose computer is brought

into play on some functions. For instance, the handling of queries to the database can be speeded up by using some parallel processing which treats the database as a honeycomb of cells. Secondly, a bunch of special processors can be used by tuning each to a particular function. The connection with advanced "intelligent" computer systems is that a "knowledge" base for use with an expert

system is a database plus rules for operating on it.

Proper responses to users' queries can be better made if some dialogue is carried out to clarify questions. Questions about available cargo ships might be improved if "super-tankers" were not included in the search, for example.

These explorations of active database systems are important to the handling of general office files. The contents here are often difficult to classify, but knowledge about them can help in using them via computers.

Homing in on future

I do not wish to be a spoil-sport but can you suggest any real educational value attaching to home computers?

It is easiest to help if I assume you are dealing with the young. Although there is little value in the passive use of computers, it is quite a different matter when the young take to building software for themselves. Communication skills are developed by youngsters who write and present their own plays and news sheets. Simi-

larly, the sound and visual opportunities offered by home computers can be a stimulant to ideas presentation and communication.

Many students benefit from the habits necessary in computing that demand the breakdown of "large" ideas into many small pieces. Although it would be glib to claim that they instantly learn how to manage complexity and so forth, it seems that computing is a good way of learning by making mistakes - without coming to much harm in the process.

It is especially useful if they invent projects which need to be split up among several people. Of course, there are other ways of developing these skills, but the home computer can be a compelling invitation to go a bit further.

Processing is a pain

Since acquiring a computer I am spending many hours doing word processing. Despite using a typist's chair I still suffer from some back pains. Is there anything I can do about this?

It might be a good idea to check the relationship of your screen and keyboard to your posture. If you are either craning to see the screen or unduly bending down to the keyboard, then you may be aggravating a back problem. My preference in chairs is one without a back support, but which gives a tilt to the seat so that my knees rest on a pad. This strange design works well for me, but I cannot promise that it will please you.

Present for the future

Is it reasonable to buy a computer for a Christmas gift which is based on the MSX standard? Will this approach overcome the problems of exchanging software between machines?

The Japanese suppliers supporting the MSX standard certainly hope that a large pool of software will be attracted to fit it. However, in looking at what is in the shops for 1984's lucky youngsters it would appear that there are plenty of alternatives to the MSX standard which already have ample software available to them. While all the MSX products are of a good standard it seems that none of them is sufficiently outstanding to overshadow those non-MSX products which are popular in the home computer field.

Computer Appointments

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Playing games: The ins and outs of mental processes

By Geoffrey Ellis

For an American party-goer, the ownership of a portable PC is becoming a passport to social success as a new craze. Mind Probe parties, sweeps through the microchip society.

The latest thing in this land of constantly changing fads, the parties use a specially written software package, which gives personal assessment to any of the guests who participate in a session of question and answers. Written by a clinical psychologist, James Johnson, the questions, all of which have been scientifically researched, give surprisingly truthful assessments of the subject, offering a personal printed report on the attitude towards work, stress, sex (or, for the under-18, school) and personal relationships.

Not only are Mind Probe parties the season's hit, but several radio stations are now subjecting their chat-show guests to an intimate scrutiny while actually on air.

All of this, while providing

fairly harmless fun for the participants, has a more serious background, because much of the program was based on information originally gathered for Johnson's business packages, sold under the Human Edge label. These packages, the Management, Sales, and Negotiation Edge were built up by a team of behavioural psychologists, business experts, and programmers.

The answers to the questions posed, are treated in the same way as those in Mind Probe, after careful analysis, the computer offers a recommended course of action, enabling, in the case of the Negotiation Edge, the negotiator, to gain a psychological upper hand over their opponent.

Future offerings will include a programme based on research by Donald Michie, Mind Probe, which comes with an explanatory booklet, is at present available for the IBM PC, Apple II, Commodore 64 and Macintosh, with prices starting at £19.95.

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Cutting the risks of air collisions

By Frank Brown

A British firm's novel use of personal computers is helping to reduce the risk of aircraft collisions.

The computer services company Scicon has developed a simulator-based system for training air traffic control (ATC) personnel which is half the cost of conventional ATC simulators and more versatile.

Called Director ITS (Integrated Training System), it can simulate any air traffic control area in the world, and virtually any civil or military air traffic situation.

The system comprises a number of personal computers interlinked by a local-area network. Some provide training in basic ATC skills. Others drive ATC radar consoles that give more advanced students realistic experience in dealing with tricky air traffic situations.

For example, up to 100 aircraft of different types can be flying in different directions at different speeds and heights at the same time in an area containing 32 airfields.

Simulations are created and monitored by instructors using PC-based supervisor consoles which enable them to 'fly' the aircraft as well as program every facet of the exercise.

The use of personal computers interlinked by a local area network speeds system design and eliminates the need for a special computer room. It also provides considerable flexibility in meeting training requirements.

The first commercial Director ITS system was operational within six months of being ordered.

Installed at Ballbrook College, Bath, the aviation training centre run by International Aeradio (IAL), it is used mainly for training foreign students.

Its various consoles can be used for individual or group training, and can be programmed so that each student can learn ATC techniques using a simulation of his country's airspace.

IAL has trained more than 300 students from 13 countries in a whole range of air traffic services operations since the beginning of the year, and over 5,000 since Ballbrook was opened seven years ago, 95 per cent of them from overseas.

Scicon is scheduled to deliver a system to the Irish Army Air Corps next month.



Operators simulate air traffic on a Director ITS

Micros and health: how they have changed the lives of the disabled

By Chris Naylor

Most people, when they think of computers in medicine, probably tend to think of the very esoteric applications, such as computerized brain scanners, or the very mundane, such as automatically producing repeat prescriptions. But anyone attending the conference of the British Computer Society's Primary Health Care Group in Oxford would have had their eyes opened.

For what was most remarkable was the extent to which small micros can make unusually large contributions to health and well-being without being either esoteric or mundane. So much so that Dr Alan Bailey, of BUPA, made the observation that he was "surprised that GPs can't prescribe computers".

What led him to this observation was a presentation by Frank Ellis on behalf of the disabled. Mr Ellis lost his eyesight in his mid-twenties and says: "If it had happened 20 years earlier I'd probably have become an unemployed basket weaver". As it is, because of computers he is able to make a living.

The same applies to Geoff Busby who is seriously deformed, having little use of his hands or feet. "But," says Mr Busby, "it doesn't matter what I look like. I've 18 years experience in computers and am a member of the BCS". So he can make a living by operating a computer keyboard using his nose.

And it is not just the ability to work in the computer industry that helps the disabled. Even that much-maligned game Space Invaders has its place in medicine - "it can help in developing hand-eye co-ordination where it was previously lacking," Mr Ellis claims.

The spectrum of computerized aids for the disabled is wide - from environmental control in which a disabled person can use a computer to control such



Disabled Robyn Frankham, aged 10, is obviously delighted to use a miniature keyboard.

items as the radio, TV, lighting, doors and heating to communications.

But more help is needed. Though the Government's micro electronics programme (MEP) has provided some help, specifically in the form of four special education micro resource centres for educating the disabled, Mr Busby told the meeting: "You doctors have to exert more pressure to get more action from the Government" because the difference is between a disabled and useless person and one whose life has purpose and meaning.

It is not just in this country that the ubiquitous micro can help provide better medical care. Dr Mandil of the World Health Organisation (WHO) pointed out that there is "not a nation in the world, down to the tiniest island protectorate, which does not have a computing capability now" and that if this capability is harnessed to medicine the benefits can be enormous.

"Technology," he claims, "has removed our ready-made excuses for inaction. There is no excuse left for avoiding beneficial courses of action."

He cited Egypt, which has developed micro-based systems for epidemiological work; Thailand which is providing micros to ease the administrative load on its small population of practising doctors; and China which, with one quarter of the world's population to care for, has turned to WHO for help in computerising its 105 medical libraries.

"It is important," Dr Mandil says, "to realize that, theoretically it is possible to have access to health services for every citizen of the world by the year 2000".

But, in particular, he makes the point that "Health is wrongly seen as a social service. People ignore the effect that health has on the economy and development of a country. Maybe, one of the very important objectives of computers is to show that health is an important determinant of the economy of nations."

If nations could see that a healthy population made for a healthy economy then, maybe, they would be prepared to put more effort into keeping their populations healthy and it could be that computerised analyses could produce this evidence. If that can be shown to be true then it will be the biggest breakthrough in medicine we have ever seen."

A boost for Michie's 'expert'

By Rory Johnston

Expert systems work in the UK and US could be given a substantial boost by the acquisition by a major software distributor of Professor Ronald Michie's rule-induction package Expert-Ease.

Professor Michie, one of the world's leading figures in artificial intelligence, received a serious setback when his previous distributors went bankrupt but now with much broader distribution and a greatly reduced price it is likely to have wide impact.

Human Edge Software of California has just signed a deal with Michie for the distribution rights to Expert-Ease, including an agreement to cut the price drastically from \$2000 to \$695. Expert-Ease will be distributed in the UK by Thorn-EMI Computer Software. Human Edge's agents, at about £700, Thorn-EMI has just launched Human Edge's principal range, which is a set of programs aiming to help people sort out inter-personal relationships in selling, management and negotiating.

The purpose of Expert-Ease, Professor Michie explains, is to get around the most serious bottleneck in the development of expert systems - that of getting human experts to encode the rules by which they work. Instead, Expert-Ease gets the experts to give examples of the decisions they make.

Software, rolling off faster than ever

The process of producing software is a long and tortuous one that can involve years of analysis, testing and debugging as programmers work to perfect each line of code.

Now a Colorado software company, KRM Software Development, has come up with a code generator said to allow novice computer users to generate up to 6,000 lines of program code daily and so produce software in days rather than months or years.

However, at a cost of £250,000, the package is not exactly aimed at the mass market. It is called Escape which, to stretch an acronym, stands for English Sentences Applications Programs Easily.

In essence, it enables inexperienced users to type in conventional sentences which the computer translates into source code. One sentence, for example can be transformed instantly into 30 lines of compiled BASIC.

The chief advantage of Escape, says sales and marketing director Jeremy Spratt, is that end users and data processing personnel can sit at a terminal together to work out the ideal application program. "It takes somebody with no formal experience only two to three weeks of half-day training sessions. Skilled Escape programmers can produce 30,000 lines a day," claims Spratt. Escape is the brainchild of 41-year-old programmer Kenneth Martin who now finds himself

head of a company turning over \$35 million.

Mr Martin developed Escape after four years hunched over a terminal at which he generated 500,000 bytes of BASIC. His system is now in American hospitals and universities and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department which used Escape to monitor security arrangements during the Olympic Games.

KRM is now looking for sales in the UK primarily from such vertical markets as local authorities, fire and police departments, and multi-nationals.

The hardware requirements are for a Prime mini, which was the computer chosen by Martin when he wrote the program.

The cost of the Prime, which is the size of a domestic deep freeze unit, is of course separate to the £25,000 outlay for the software and adds around £30,000 to the investment.

Once the first copy has been sold, clients can obtain second and subsequent copies for £5,000 each.

The program itself is protected so that unauthorized attempts at copying it results in users being locked out and having to obtain a new password from KRM who will want to know reason why.

Each copy of Escape is also configured for a specific Prime computer. The protection, says Mr Martin, has never been cracked.

Let's stop blaming the poor computer

By Celia Kemsley

A coroner recently blamed the suicide of an 86-year-old woman on a computer which sent a final demand for rates. He said: "This lady was caught up in a system which she did not understand and which had not been explained to her and the computer was inexorably going through the next process."

Another involved party said: "The problem is that a computer chucks out a list of names and addresses of people owing rates and it is hard to tell one from another."

It seems that the computer, which cannot defend itself, is an easy scapegoat for what is the basic human inability to communicate. The computer amplifies our deficiencies, our lack of thought and planning.

Most of us do not take the assertive approach. We do not stop to think what it is we really want, we wait to see which way the wind blows and drift in that direction. We do not bother to clarify our objectives, firstly with ourselves and then with those involved. Thus we leave ourselves open to misunderstanding which can be the route cause of fear, insecurity, resentment and isolation.

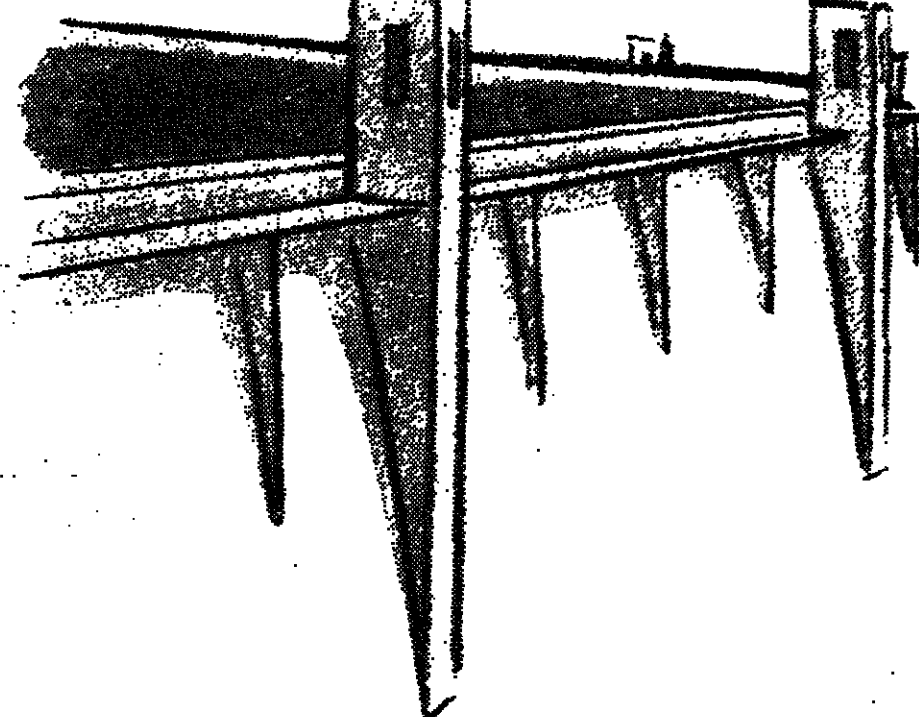
The computer is an instrument of communication. If you know what you want to say and how you want to say it the computer will help you do so efficiently and speedily. What it will not do is help you to think for yourself. It will not reason all the subtleties of a situation. Words have unique power to affect people's beliefs and attitudes.

The written word lacks the external influences of facial expressions, gestures, and intonation which can lead to misunderstanding and frustration. To be successful we need to know something about the people with whom we are trying to set up a dialogue. The computer may be able to help us do this by planning the key points of reference.

The computer is not a monster. It is a tool. People are afraid of the unknown and unfamiliar and thus happy to blame the computer. We hear stories of electricity bills for unbelievable amounts, of visitors to an exhibition having to wait because the key to the computer room was lost and the entry system was computerized.

An understandable reaction is to accuse an inanimate object or to attack as a means of defending oneself against something feared. We should, however, start to look at ourselves, at the way we function, the way we communicate. The computer can speed up the routine chores, so let's put our efforts into human relationships.

Managing information means getting what you need when you need it.



In theory it's as simple as that. In practice it isn't. Or hasn't been up until now. And with hindsight it's easy to see why.

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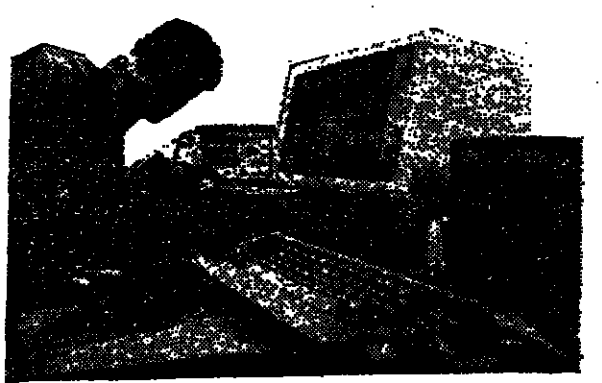
The popular term for all this is 'integration'. And no-one has succeeded in bringing it to computing like Cullinet. From GOLDENGATE for the desktop PC through a cohesive product range, Cullinet enables you to implement a viable information strategy.

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Commodore's US victory

continued from page 23

Apple-like gimmick for the PC Junior is being touted in advertisements which compare it to the black and white only display of Apple's painting program. IBM has also cut the price of the Junior machine.

The recent announcement of Lotus 123 on cartridge and a modem option should further increase the perceived value of the system.

And Apple has been going all out to get people to carry Macintosh computers out of the shop for "test drives". But software is still slow in coming for the machine.

So the PC Junior and Macintosh are still not machines many North Americans will rush to get under the Christmas tree as they still largely exceed Christmas budgets. They may well, however, indicate the start of an increasing trend towards non-seasonal purchases on serious home computers.

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CRICKET: GAVASKAR REPEATS CALL FOR NEUTRAL UMPIRES AS ENGLAND SINK TO ALL-TIME LOW

No cheer in sight for beaten England

From Richard Streeton, Bombay

England dutifully managed to summon a measure of fighting spirit and prolonged the first Test match yesterday until an hour after lunch. India finally won a game they have dominated from start to finish by eight wickets and took a lead in the five-match series which will be hard to pull back. Sivaramakrishnan, the little leg spinner, carved his own niche by joining Vinoo Mankad as the only Indians to capture 12 wickets in a Test against England.

This was England's thirteenth successive Test match without a victory and it is not easy to see any immediate end to what is now the worst sequence in their history. In 1984 England have already lost rubbers against New Zealand, Pakistan and West Indies and had the worst of a drawn game with Sri Lanka. Now they have been crushed by India and four Test matches follow at Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Kanpur, all of them centres where definite results are hard to obtain. India's selectors announce shortly after the finish that their team for the Delhi Test on December 12 would be selected from the same 14 players.

David Gower, the England captain, admitted afterwards that England really lost this match by their poor batting on the first day. They also had justification at the end to feel aggrieved about the umpiring in this game, though Gower deflected any questions about it. "As you know, we have the facility to make our comments on reports to the Indian Board," he said. "The will have plenty of reading to do when I have finished writing my reports. I will be thorough and honest."

England have very properly decided against repeating the mistakes made on Fletcher's tour by making public any criticism of Indian umpires. There were, however, at least four possibly five or six decisions made against English batsmen that seemed open to doubt and a little unexpectedly it was Swarup Kishen, the Round 1st umpire, who was involved every time. Swarup's name means "sweet feature" in Hindi - brought little joy to England as he stood in his seventeenth Test match, equaling the Indian umpiring record.

Australia promote a tough nut

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

Allan Border has been given the difficult task of leading Australia in their next match against West Indies, starting in Adelaide on Friday. Kim Hughes, whose name is among the 12 players whom from the Australian team will be chosen.

There is, in fact, a slight doubt about Border's fitness. He was hit by a car on the way to the Queensland against Tasmania over the weekend, a match in which he scored 144 not out. Rodney Hogg has been named as vice-captain, though he would seem an unlikely choice to take over should Border have to cry off.

Border and England's captain, Gower, have a certain amount in common. They have played matches in the same number of Test matches (Gower 65, Border 63); both played on first of them in 1978; both are left-handed batsmen and Border, like Gower, is being thrown in the deep against Clive Lloyd's all-conquering West Indies.

But where Gower displays at the wicket a certain elegance and in his captaincy a certain blandness, Border has down to the hard way. He is small, bullet-proof and very Australian. In West Indies

Border: fitness doubt

Wasps win Autumn Cup then lose their sting

By Robert Pryce

Durham Wasps emerged from their demanding weekend with their national trophy of their 38-year history and a severe case of coaching. They played the two Test matches in the British League on successive days, beating Flycatchers 6-4 at Northampton in the Autumn Cup final, sponsored by Bluecol, on Saturday before losing to the same opponents at Wetherby on Sunday.

Paul Tilley, their player-coach, said the players were "in the celebrations after Saturday's game" and he had to leave and go to the other end of the country. He described the Durham style of play as "more of a dump-in and grid game". This weekend the grid may have eventually told on them. After two games, they put them 2-1 up after 24 minutes of the game at Murraysfield, they conceded two goals to Lynch while attempting to exploit the numerical advantage presented to them by a Murraysfield penalty.

Durham have built on the foundations of last season, when they finished second in the league. Tilley, stronger and 10lbs leaner than last season, when he was considered among the fastest skaters in the league, leads a well-organized team, which should eventually firm up its most contentious position when Frank Killen, a former England netminder, secures his release from Nottingham.

Netminder is the one position where Southamptons Vikings do not

have any problems at the moment. Lacking six of their regular team, they went down to two heavy defeats in the north east, as the season, despite Colton's continuing excellence, John Ireland, a Great Britain junior international, scored seven goals as Whiteley Warriors beat them 18-0 on Sunday.

BBC Television will broadcast a British League game of the month on Saturday, December 8, at 7.30pm. It will be an exclusive contract announced by the British Ice Hockey Association and the League's sponsors, yesterday. As part of the package, BBC will cover the British Championship semi-finals and final at Wembley on May 4 and 5.

Premier division: Cleveland 12, Southamptons 13, Nottingham Panthers 14, Murraysfield 15, Durham 16, Whiteley Warriors 17, Ayr 18, Dundee 19, Murraysfield 20, Durham 21, Whiteley Warriors 22, Ayr 23, Dundee 24, Murraysfield 25, Durham 26, Whiteley Warriors 27, Ayr 28, Dundee 29, Murraysfield 30, Durham 31, Whiteley Warriors 32, Ayr 33, Dundee 34, Murraysfield 35, Durham 36, Whiteley Warriors 37, Ayr 38, Dundee 39, Murraysfield 40, Durham 41, Whiteley Warriors 42, Ayr 43, Dundee 44, Murraysfield 45, Durham 46, Whiteley Warriors 47, Ayr 48, Dundee 49, Murraysfield 50, Durham 51, Whiteley Warriors 52, Ayr 53, Dundee 54, Murraysfield 55, Durham 56, Whiteley Warriors 57, Ayr 58, Dundee 59, Murraysfield 60, Durham 61, Whiteley Warriors 62, Ayr 63, Dundee 64, Murraysfield 65, Durham 66, Whiteley Warriors 67, Ayr 68, Dundee 69, Murraysfield 70, Durham 71, Whiteley Warriors 72, Ayr 73, Dundee 74, Murraysfield 75, Durham 76, Whiteley Warriors 77, Ayr 78, Dundee 79, Murraysfield 80, Durham 81, 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Legal Appointments

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in association with
Norton Rose Botterell & Roche

Are seeking further commercial lawyers in the range 1-4 yrs. qualified. A sound knowledge gained with a major London or provincial city practice is sought. Experience in company re-organisation and debt restructuring work is desirable but not essential. The post is for 3 yrs. extendable. Salary, rent allowance and other terms should prove attractive to any solicitor working in the United Kingdom whether in the City of London or elsewhere.

Applications should be made to Reuter Simkin who has instructions to produce a shortlist. Please quote Ref: C.124. Applications should be received by Monday 14th December. Reuter Simkin Limited, 26-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4HE. Tel: 01-405 6852.

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City c. £30,000

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This is an extremely important position within a key department and offers an exceptional opportunity for rapid career progression. For the individual appointed, there will be no limit to remuneration or promotion prospects within the practice.

For further information please telephone Laurence Simons on 01-405 0442 or write to him at Michael Page Partnership, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.

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LAWYERS the widest range of career options

The Government Legal Service offers careers which encompass all aspects of the law. Whether in an advisory or decision-making role, or in general legal work or a specialised area. Lawyers can both gain invaluable experience and attain high levels of responsibility at an early stage.

Opportunities now exist in the following areas:

Advisory

Department of the Environment - 2 posts
Beyond the interpretation of legislation, lawyers handle an exceptional variety of intellectually stimulating work. This can include tendering advice to Ministers and officials, mastering and interpreting complex legislation, and objectively reviewing any wider legal issues that a case may raise.

Department of Health and Social Security - 4 posts
Work is wide-ranging and includes all aspects of welfare and health services. There is some European Community and private international law work.

Departments of Trade and Industry - 3 posts
In providing a comprehensive legal service to both the Department and the Export Credits Guarantee Department, lawyers are faced with a wide range of tasks involving, for example, general advisory work and negotiations concerning commercial, administrative, domestic, EEC and international law. Much substantive and regulatory law in the commercial field is covered, relating to both nationalised and private industries.

These posts involve some overseas travel.
Home Office - 1 post
The Legal Adviser's Branch tenders advice on a wide variety of legal topics including legislation and assists in the preparation and drafting of Bills, Statutory Instruments and other legal documents. A sound understanding of jurisprudence and common law is essential.

Advisory and Litigation
Inland Revenue - 5 posts
The posts are in the Solicitor's Office which provides a comprehensive advisory and litigation service. Casework involves a wide variety of problems in the fields of general common law and equity as well as statute law and specialist taxation subjects. Good opportunities for advocacy before appeal tribunals and the lower courts. Previous revenue law experience not necessary, but a good background of general law is important.

Treasury Solicitor's Department - 5 posts
The Treasury Solicitor's Department acts as Legal Adviser to most government departments and other government agencies. Lawyers deal with an immense variety of issues covering contracts, intellectual property and trusts, together with litigation in the High Court and the House of Lords. They also conduct cases at the Court of the European Community, present evidence in major public enquiries, and represent departments at other inquiries and tribunals.

Charity Law and Trust Administration
Charity Commission - 4 posts (3 in London, 1 in Liverpool)
Charity Commission lawyers conduct correspondence and have personal contact with charity trustees and

their professional advisers, draft and make schemes in accordance with the cy pres doctrine, and other orders, either authorising a particular action or of an administrative nature. The work requires a sound knowledge of trust law and the basic principles of conveyancing.

Conveyancing

HM Land Registry - 4 posts (1 each at Lytham St Anne's, Nottingham, Swansea and Tisbury Wells)
These regional posts involve the examination of the more complex titles on first registration and advising on questions of law arising from dealings with registered land. A knowledge of conveyancing is required together with an interest in real property law.

Criminal Law

Home Office: Criminal Injuries Compensation Board - 3 posts
This work requires lawyers of a good general ability in advocacy. The duties will include consideration of the relevant law and evidence in cases where the applicant has requested the oral hearing of his application by the Board; preparation and conduct of the case including examination and cross-examination of witness at the hearing; writing hearing note and final disposal of case.

Prosecution
HM Customs and Excise - 2 posts
Lawyers initially will be dealing with prosecutions where they advise on proceedings, conduct them in Magistrates Courts and have responsibility for them in the higher Courts. Later they may be involved in civil litigation, drafting subordinate legislation and advising on the legal aspects of the Department's work.

Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions - 6 posts
Lawyers, who work in small regional teams, advise on criminal matters, prepare cases for commitment to Crown Courts and are involved in advocacy at Magistrates Courts in England and Wales. Previous experience in criminal work an advantage. Some travel involved.

General
Lord Chancellor's Department: Criminal Appeal Office and the Chancery Division of the Supreme Court - 4 posts
Lawyers in the Criminal Appeal Office are concerned in every aspect of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division. The lawyer appointed to the Chancery Division will lead a team drafting more difficult and complex court orders, researching and preparing precedents in the light of new legislation.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - 2 posts
MAFF lawyers provide a full service (except conveyancing) which includes advisory and Parliamentary work, civil and criminal cases in domestic courts, and cases before the European Court of Justice. One post is advisory and the other concerned with the conduct of civil and criminal cases in all courts of England and Wales and, on behalf of the United Kingdom, before the European Court of Justice.

Senior Legal Assistant - £16,275-£21,580 according to age, qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects to £24,000 and above.
Salaries for posts outside London £1300 less.
For further details and an application form (to be returned by 4 January 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1JB or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 48551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/1576/2.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer

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Sweet & Maxwell wish to appoint Legal Editors to take responsibility, after training, for practice and students' books, looseleaf works and journals.

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Law publishing represents an attractive and potentially rewarding career for those with the requisite qualifications and aptitude. For the right people we can offer the prospect of progress from general editorial work, to responsibility for a particular field of publishing, and in due course participation in publishing management.

Sweet & Maxwell is part of the Legal Publishing Division of Associated Book Publishers (UK) Ltd., and applicants should write, in confidence, stating age, qualifications, experience and present salary to:-

The Personnel Director
Associated Book Publishers (UK) Ltd.
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£24,000 to £25,800

Applications are invited for the post of Solicitor to the Board which will become vacant in the New Year.

The Solicitor is responsible for providing legal advice and a comprehensive legal service to Eastern Electricity and heads a professional team of lawyers at the Board Headquarters near Ipswich. Eastern Electricity has a workforce of 8,700 and is responsible for the supply of electricity to 6.5 million people. It has 123 shops and a total annual turnover exceeding one billion pounds.

The work of the Solicitor is very wide ranging and requires a commercial instinct and the ability to communicate at all levels but experience in the electricity supply industry is not essential. Experience in handling the acquisition and disposal of properties will be a distinct advantage.

The appointment attracts a comprehensive benefits package, which includes a car and assistance with relocation where appropriate. Letters of application to the Secretary, Eastern Electricity, P O Box 40, Wetherhead, Ipswich IP9 2AQ by 17 December 1984.

Eastern Electricity is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Lawyer in Industry

The Company Secretary's Department has a vacancy for a Lawyer who is interested in pursuing a career which combines work in the legal field with a wider role in the administration and business of the Company. The person selected will be located initially in the headquarters of the Mond Division of ICI in Cheshire, working under the Division Secretary and with another lawyer in the department.

Candidates for the post should be Barristers or Solicitors, preferably in their twenties, with a good academic background. Some experience in private practice or in industry would be helpful. An attractive salary and excellent benefits, including a profit-sharing scheme, are offered.

Please apply for an application form to:

Mrs Linda Kennedy, Head Office
Personnel Department,
Imperial Chemical Industries PLC,
Imperial Chemical House, Millbank,
London SW1P 3JF.
(Tel: 01-834 4444).



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Send CV (which should include telephone number) to:
Box 0544R The Times
by December 17th 1984.

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Up to £13,020 inclusive
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The person appointed will be responsible for a wide range of legal work including advising two major Committees of the Council and attending other relevant Committees and Members Groups. There will be a general range of legal duties including advocacy in the Magistrates and County Courts and at Public Inquiries.

The Council operates generous Relocation arrangements (including a mortgage subsidy scheme) in approved cases.

Further details and an application form for the above vacancy can be obtained from the Personnel & Management Services Officer, Town Hall, The Parade, Epsom, Surrey, or phone Epsom 26252 ext. 2184.

Closing date: 14th December 1984.

EPSOM & EWELL

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The work entails helping with updating of the information retrieval system, preparation of information bulletins and enquiry work, as well as assistance in the day-to-day running of the Library.

An interest in the law is desirable. The post would suit a recent graduate of library school requiring the necessary experience for librarianship of the Library Association.

Please apply in writing with a curriculum vitae to Mrs C. Miskin, Head of Library and Information Department.

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An established law firm in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia is looking for a solicitor to undertake a wide range of commercial work including Admiralty and Shipping matters. The successful applicant is likely to have gained the appropriate experience with a leading practice in the City of London.

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Applicants should write, in confidence, giving full personal details and quoting reference AMB to:-

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180 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3NT.

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Applications in writing with full CV to Ref RD, William A. Merrick & Co, 120-121 Newgate Street, London, EC1.

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We are a 48 Partner firm with offices in London, New York, Brussels and Hong Kong.

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LITIGATION

The preferred candidate will have a minimum of 2 years admitted experience and necessarily in the City, although High Court experience essential. A good academic background and ability to liaise with clients essential.

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Applications to be made in writing with a curriculum vitae to the Senior Litigation Partner, Blyth Dutton, 8 & 9, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3JW.

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Luxembourg bank's rebuff to receiver

Continued from page 1

refused to pay a £200,000 contempt fine, is forced to go to court. It is likely however that his claim to the funds will be accepted and he will then draw them.

The court would be less likely to entertain a claim from the sequestrators because they exercise a quasi-judicial function and no court will enforce the penal legislation of another country.

According to legal opinion, Mr Brewer could face difficulties because the miners' union assets are in the names of Mr Trevor Cave, deputy chief executive, and Mr Stephen Hudson, finance officer, who are nominees of the three trustees whose duties Mr Brewer has assumed.

But provided Mr Brown can show the court that the three trustees, were acting as agents that should present no great obstacle.

The return of the union's assets to Britain, which could be achieved within hours of a successful court hearing, would not necessarily mean the lifting of sequestration and receiver-ship orders.

Even if the £200,000 contempt fine is paid, together with legal costs that have accrued from the various legal actions in foreign courts, the union will have to give an undertaking to obey present and future court orders.

In law, sequestration is a penalty in its own right and is likely to remain in force without the undertakings.

Even then, the receivership might remain in force: a court hearing on the receivership will be heard on Thursday.

Storm over homes plan for Ice Age woodland

By David Nicholson-Lord

Fierce controversy has broken out over a Labour borough's plans for a council estate in the largest remaining area of ancient woodland in inner London.

Southward's proposals for 93 houses in Sydenham Hill Wood, 23 acres of oak, beech and hornbeam largely undisturbed since the Ice Age, have aroused protests from the Nature Conservancy Council, the London Wildlife Trust, local MPs and residents. Objectors believe the decision of the inspector at a planning inquiry next month will be an important test case for wildlife conservation in the city.

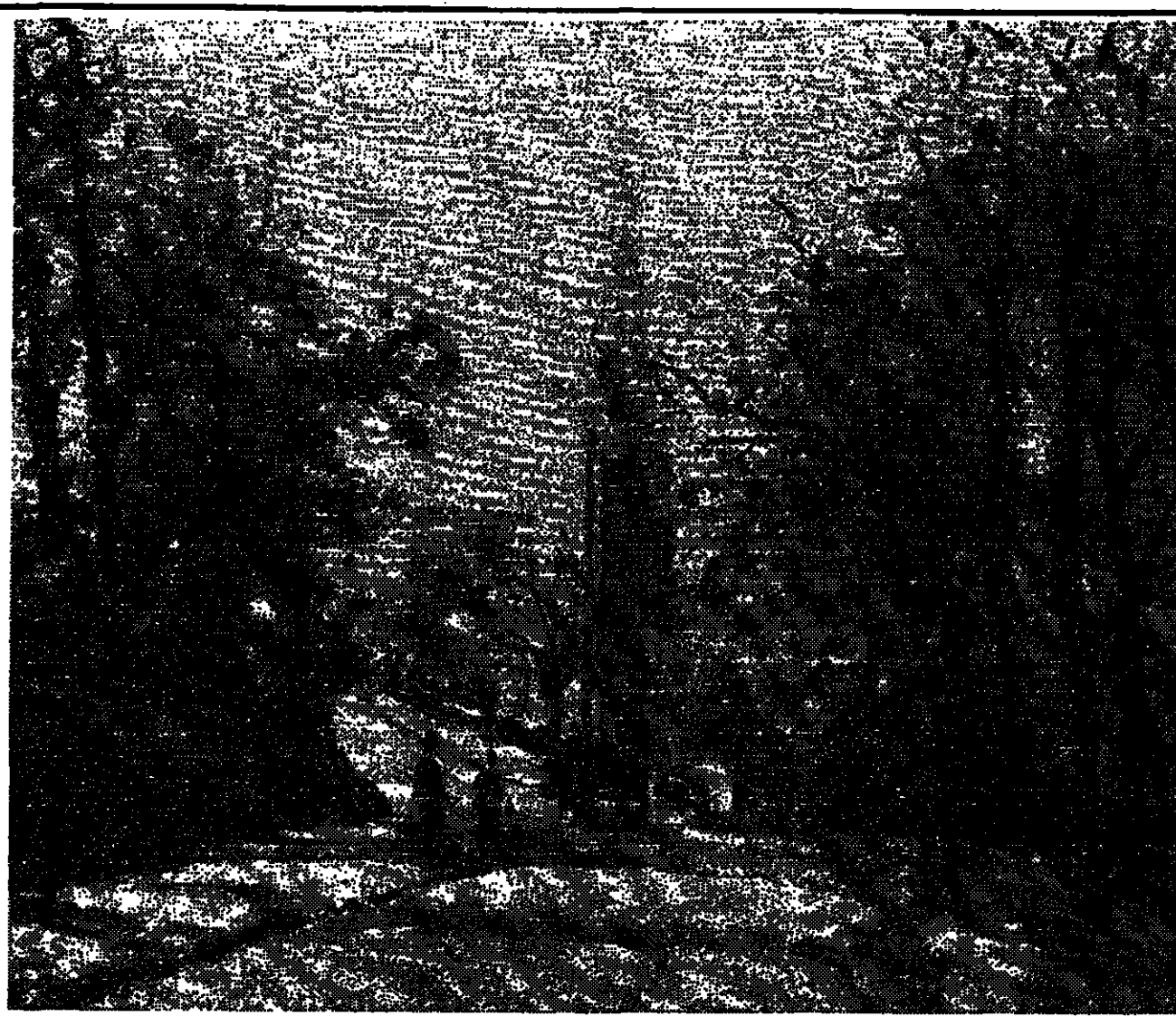
What has particularly irritated opponents is the expense of building on the site. Mr Jeremy Lees, director of the London Wildlife Trust, which runs the wood as a nature reserve, said yesterday: "It is the hilliest steepest slope you could ever hope to come across."

Mr Gerald Bowden, Conservative MP for Dulwich, says each house could cost an extra £60,000 because of the slopes and drainage. He is asking Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, to intervene.

More than a century ago the French Impressionist painter Camille Pissarro lived in Sydenham and sketched many of its scenes. The wood remains one of the few fragments untouched since his day by the spread of the city.

Mr Nick Snow, chairman of Southward's housing committee, rejected £60,000 per house as the extra cost of development.

Pissarro sold, page 16



Pissarro's view of St Stephen's, Dulwich (top), and today's reality (Photograph: Murray Job).



Letter from Athens

Case of a missing Prime Minister

Where on earth is Andreas Papandreu? The Opposition claims that most of the time the Greek Prime Minister is abroad, and when he is here, he rarely sets foot in his office or in Parliament.

Bombs are being planted all over Athens these days, anti-government demonstrators march through the streets, the Army — official denials notwithstanding — is placed on the alert, the universities are restless, and Supreme Court judges are at each other's throats over socialist reforms. But the country's Prime Minister, like Macavity the cat, is never there.

He spent the last weekend in Rome for a chat with his Italian colleague, but above all to discuss peace and disarmament with the Pope. He flew to the Dublin European Summit yesterday to air his views on the Middle East and Poland. He goes to Brussels tomorrow for a Nato Defence Ministers' meeting to put on record, once again, his opposition to the policies of the Western Alliance.

"We have no Prime Minister," complains his anti-rival, Mr Constantinos Mitsotakis, the Conservative Opposition leader. "He travels all the time. And he is so preoccupied with the Middle East and Nicaragua, that little time is left for Greek affairs."

If what the Opposition wants as Prime Minister is a card-punching civil servant addicted to office hours, they are not getting him. But Mr Mitsotakis is obviously frustrated. These months ago he was chosen leader of the New Democracy Party mainly because he was the only man to stand up against the charismatic Mr Papandreu.

For three months he has stalked the Prime Minister to challenge him in a rhetorical duel. But Mr Papandreu has been seen in Parliament only 10 times in the past three years, and his last appearance on Wednesday to watch the tabling of the budget, was timed at exactly four minutes.

The truth is that Mr Papandreu, who took over the maximos mansion, the official guest house, to use as an office, prefers to work out of Kastrì, where he has a comfortable family villa set in a pin wood, about 11 traffic-packed miles north of Athens. At weekends he enjoys moving south to Vouliagmenì's plush beach hotels. His move-

Mario Modiano

375 die in gas leak

Continued from page 1

"There were cars, bicycles, anti-rickshaws, anything that could move on the road trying to get up the hill. I saw people just collapsing by the side of the road."

Methyl isocyanate is considered so dangerous that its use or storage in Britain is hedged around with stringent safety regulations, which are to be tightened again early next year. No British company now uses the chemical and only one European company, Bayer of Cologne, produces it.

NEW YORK: The Union Carbide Corporation does not yet know why safety devices failed on the 45-ton tank of

methyl isocyanate (Trevor Fishlock writes). Engineers and chemists from the United States and Bombay were on their way yesterday to find out what went wrong.

ATHENS: The village of Niochiki, east of Salonika in northern Greece, was evacuated yesterday after an Austrian tanker-lorry carrying a highly explosive chemical substance, skidded off the road and turned on its side (Mario Modiano writes).

Police said the lorry was heading for Istanbul with 15 tons of ethylene oxide, which could explode if it came into contact with oxygen.

British security, page 6

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen holds an Investiture, Buckingham Palace, 11. The Duke of Edinburgh attends a reception at St James's Palace for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 11.30 to 12.30 and 4 to 5. The Prince of Wales, vice-patron, The British Council, attends a meeting at 10 Spring Gardens, SW1, 10.30. The Princess of Wales visits the

Royal School for the Blind, Leatherhead, Surrey, 11. Princess Margaret, president of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attends a lunch, Regency Rooms, Ilkerton, 12.15; and later attends a thanksgiving service at Derby Cathedral for the presentation of purses, 2.25. The Duchess of Kent attends the Park Lane Fair, Park Lane Hotel, 12.20 Brompton Rd, SW3, 3. Princess Alexandra, Chancellor of Lancaster University, attends a lunch at the University, 12.45; and later confers higher degrees, 3. Prince Michael of Kent attends

the presentation ceremony of the Lord Trophy, Dorchester Hotel, London, 6. Princess Michael of Kent attends the Royal Smithfield Show, Earls Court, 11.

New exhibitions Archives for the Future, Stafford Art Gallery, The Green; Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4; (ends Jan 19). A view of Stirling over the last 100 years by local photographers, Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum, 40 Albert Place, Stirling; Wed to Sun 2 to 5; (ends April 7). Victorian Music: Central Library, Reference, Salford, Edinburg, Mon to Fri 9 to 9, Sat 9 to 1; (ends Dec 31). Love: work by members of Collective Gallery, 52-54 High St, Edinburgh; Tues to Fri 12.30 to 5.30, Thurs 12.30 to 7, Sat 10.30 to 5; (ends Dec 22).

Music Piano recital by John Savory, Art Gallery, Bury St Edmunds, 1.10. Choral concert by Leeds Festival Chorus: Leeds Parish Church, 7.30. Recital by Manoug Parikian (violin) and Bernard Roberts (piano); Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton University, 8. Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Cheltenham Town Hall, 7.30. Piano recital by Philip Smith; Sam Newsom Music Centre, Boston, Lincs, 7.30. Recital by Michael Beeston (violin) and David Lloyd (piano); Reid Concert Hall, Edinburgh, 1.10.

Talks, lectures Religion in the Early Italian Renaissance, by Dr George Holmes; Department of History, Edinburgh University, 4.15. Clothing in the Pacific by Dr Euan MacKie; Hunterian Art Gallery, Lecture Theatre, Glasgow, 7.30.

First aid list

The National Register of First Aiders, a division of the British Safety Council, which is campaigning to make the teaching of first aid in schools compulsory for final-year students, appeals to readers who know of a school where first aid is taught. Such information would be of use in the preparation of a register of a report for MFAs. Any information should be sent to the National Register of First Aiders, National Safety Centre, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL (Telephone 01-741 1231).

Anniversaries

Births: Thomas Carlyle, Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, 1795; Samuel Butler, author of *Erewhon*, Langar, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, 1835; Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, Prague, 1875. Deaths: Cardinal de Richelieu, Paris, 1642; Thomas Hobbes, political philosopher, Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, 1633; John Gay, poet and dramatist, author of *The Beggar's Opera*, London, 1732; Robert Banks Jenkinson, 2nd Earl of Liverpool, prime minister 1812-27, London, 1828; Stefan George, poet, Mianiss, Switzerland, 1933; Benjamin Borevitz, Britten, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, 1976.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending November 25

Rank	Programme	Time
1	Coronation Street (Wed)	7.30pm
2	Coronation Street (Mon)	7.30pm
3	Olivia (Sat)	10.30pm
4	Home Time (Tue)	10.30pm
5	Coronation Street (Wed)	7.30pm
6	The A Team (TV)	10.30pm
7	Coronation Street (Tue)	7.30pm
8	The Gentle Touch (Wed)	10.30pm
9	Coronation Street (Wed)	7.30pm
10	Emmerdale Farm (Tue)	12.30pm

1. Lame Ducks, 8.10pm. 2. To the Manor Born, 8.10pm. 3. Forged Minutes, 8.10pm. 4. M.A.S.H., 8.45pm. 5. The Bill, 9.10pm. 6. The Bill, 9.10pm. 7. The Bill, 9.10pm. 8. The Bill, 9.10pm. 9. The Bill, 9.10pm. 10. The Bill, 9.10pm.

Brookside (Mon), 8.10pm. Brookside (Tue), 8.10pm. Brookside (Wed), 8.10pm. Brookside (Thu), 8.10pm. Brookside (Fri), 8.10pm. Brookside (Sat), 8.10pm. Brookside (Sun), 8.10pm.

Christmas message The Queen will broadcast on both radio and television on Christmas Day. The message will be broadcast on BBC Radio 1 and 4 at 9.30am and repeated on Radio 2 at 10am and on Radio 3 at 11am. It will also be shown on BBC 1 at 3pm, BBC 2 at 4.40pm, Independent Television at 3pm and Channel 4 at 5pm.

The pound

Country	Bank	Rate
Australia	Bank	1.42
Australia	Sale	1.43
Austria	Sch	27.00
Belgium	Sch	27.00
Canada	Sch	27.00
Denmark	Sch	27.00
France	Sch	27.00
Germany	Sch	27.00
Italy	Sch	27.00
Japan	Sch	27.00
Netherlands	Sch	27.00
Portugal	Sch	27.00
Spain	Sch	27.00
Sweden	Sch	27.00
Switzerland	Sch	27.00
USA	Sch	27.00

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Roads

London and South-east: A20: Diversions in Eitham, road closed between Lee Green and Cambridge Drive. A1: Delays in Hatfield, at Birchwood Roundabout. Wales and West: A40: Lane restrictions at Broadmoor on the Whildon to Carmarthen Rd. M4: Only one lane open westbound between junctions 17 and 18 (Cirencester to Bath stretch). A419: Swindon Northbound carriageway closed on Station St Margaret by-pass southbound on southbound; alternative routes signed. The Midlands: M6: Outside lanes on North and southbound carriageways between junctions 3 and 4 closed. Delays. A34: Roadworks between Birmingham Rd at Stratford-upon-Avon; delays. A423: Serious delays at Southam. The North: A63: Reconstruction work at Henshaw. Scotland: A24: Single lane traffic at N end of Bonar Bridge; temporary signals 24 hours. A92: Lane closures eight miles N of Stonehaven. Information supplied by the AA

The papers

The Daily Star says that the proposals put forward by Sir Keith Joseph on student grants "undermines a principle accepted by every British Government since the war" — that higher education should be available free to every student who has reached the necessary academic standards. The Star also comments on Sir Keith Joseph's proposals, saying: "It is ludicrous that he should be facing a storm and the possibility of resignation while selfish far-cats who are resting a penny on their own budgets sit snug and undisturbed in the Cabinet."

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Local Government Bill, completion of second reading debate. Lords (2.30): Bankruptcy (Scotland) Bill and Family Law (Scotland) Bill, Committee stages. Debate on St Helena.

Portfolio

Portfolio — record your daily Portfolio. Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total. If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won a prize or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as mentioned below.

London

Yesterday: Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; t, fair; r, rain; s, sun. Sun rises: 7.48 am. Sun sets: 3.53 pm. Moon rises: 3.11 am. Moon sets: 2.14 pm. Full Moon: December 6.

Lighting-up time

London: 4.23 pm to 7.19 am. Bristol: 4.35 pm to 7.28 am. Birmingham: 4.15 pm to 7.28 pm. Manchester: 4.22 pm to 7.28 am. Newcastle: 4.31 pm to 7.25 am. Portsmouth: 4.31 pm to 7.25 am.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, 13C. Lowest day temp: Harrogate, 7C. Highest night temp: Harrogate, 11C. Lowest night temp: Harrogate, 3C.

Our address

Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8ZZ.

Weather forecast

A weakening frontal trough over E districts will relax E as a small ridge of high pressure crosses the British Isles during the day, with further troughs of low pressure reaching the W later.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, NW, central N England, E, W, Scotland, Channel Islands, Lake District, SW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Surrey: intervals at first, becoming cloudy with rain spreading from W; wind SW light becoming S strong; max temp 10C (50F). East Angles, E, NE, Eastland, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy with a little rain in places at first, but soon becoming drier with sunny intervals; wind W light backing S moderate; max temp 8C (46F). SW England, S, W Wales, Isle of Man, Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Bright intervals at first, becoming cloudy with rain in afternoon; wind SW light becoming S strong; max temp 10C (50F). Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Changeable, with showers or longer periods of rain in most areas, but some sunny intervals; temperatures near normal.

High tides

London Bridge 10.55. All other tides on page 10.

Around Britain

Area	Time	Weather
Scarborough	10.55	Cloudy
London Bridge	10.55	Cloudy
London Bridge	10.55	Cloudy
London Bridge	10.55	Cloudy
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Abroad

Area	Time	Weather
Algeria	14.57	Cloudy
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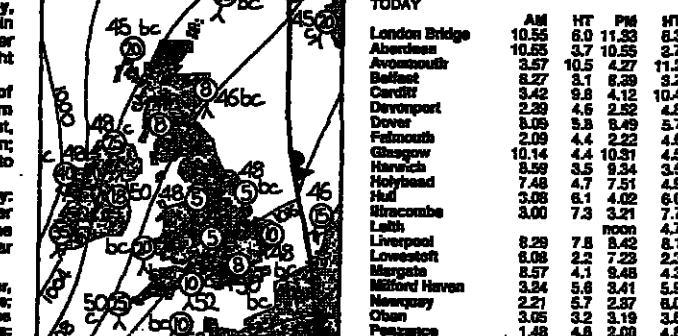
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NOON TODAY

Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts: solid line, cold; dashed line, warm. Wind direction and speed (mph) indicated. Temperature in degrees Celsius.



High tides

London Bridge 10.55. All other tides on page 10.

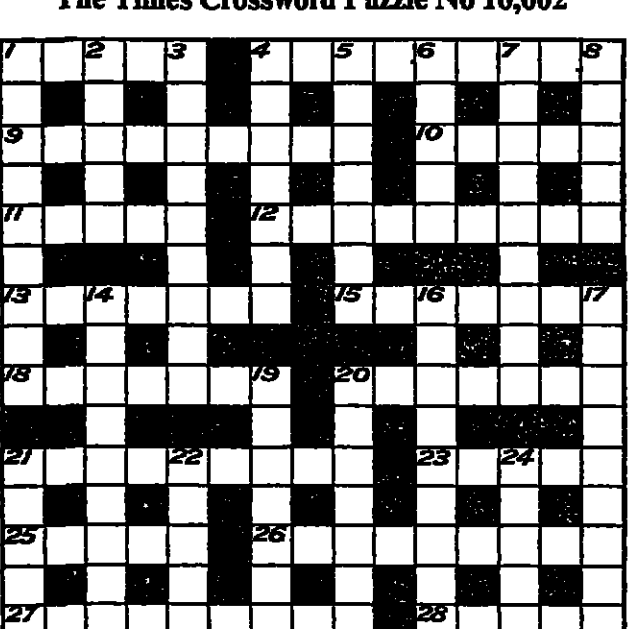
Around Britain

Area	Time	Weather
Scarborough	10.55	Cloudy
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Abroad

Area	Time	Weather
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,602



ACROSS

- Keep an eye on the dog, perhaps (5).
- Sack Mark, a trouble-maker (9).
- Intoxication upsets one head (9).
- Booby, to put it another way (5).
- Spots, so to speak, before the eyes (5).
- What extraordinarily oral gurus are (9).
- A slight reverse half face-to-face (7).
- Rose at Granchester thus unofficially gives tongue (7).
- Difficult decision I have on reflection, left to Miss Woodhouse (7).
- More than cover remaining drink (7).
- Early development of city district during Cypriot revolution (9).
- Subject to very good conditions initially (5).
- One in black going round being fearful (5).
- Off the cuff, I am to remind you while speaking (9).
- Inside the park, called a shrub (9).
- Food and drink (5).

DOWN

- How market stallholders are equipped to resist (9).
- Where lived the brave, put finally to the sword (5).
- I lost out, surrounded by damage in bad weather (4-5).
- Charge for transporting soldiers into battle (7).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 13

مكتبة الامم المتحدة